

The Stories Behind Our People's Choice Award Winners

SPECIAL SECTION

9 WAYS TO BOUNCE BACK AFTER LOSING YOUR JOB

See Classified Section B

SPECIAL SECTION

2011 FORB'S ARTS BEATS & EATS

2011 AB&E

Novi News

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Blood drives

The following blood drives will be held in the Novi/Northville area:

• Sunday, Aug. 28; 7 a.m.-12:45 p.m.; First United Methodist Church

• Monday, Aug. 29; 1-6:45 p.m.; Novi Meadows; high school scholarship

• Monday, Aug. 29; 1-6:45 p.m.; Novi Library; high school scholarship

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

• Wednesday, Aug. 31; 1-6:45 p.m.; Oak Pointe Church; high school scholarship

• Thursday, Sept. 1; 1-6:45 p.m.; Northville High School; high school scholarship

• Friday, Sept. 2; 1-6:45 p.m.; Powerhouse Gym Novi; high school scholarship

All wanting to donate can contact Diane Risko at (313) 549-7052 or riskod@usa.redcross.org.

Contest winners

Winners in the *Observer & Eccentric* and *Hometown Newspapers* Tony Bennett concert contest include:

• Ann Hennington of Northville, Jeanine Page of Novi, Pam Carefelle of Canton, Marlan Cook of Livonia, Irene Weathers of Birmingham, Daniel Underwood of Garden City, Ben Yee of Southfield, David Manning of Livonia and Rick Ralph of Milford.

Each winner received two tickets to "An Evening with Tony Bennett," Aug. 24 at the Fox Theatre.

Contestants entered online at the hometownlife.com facebook page.

Check out our facebook page at hometownlife.com next month for a chance to win an overnight stay at the Townsend Hotel and \$50 for dining in the Rugby Grille.

Summer school construction projects nearly complete

Sinking fund used to pay for \$900,000 worth of work

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The athletes at Novi High School appear to be the highest beneficiaries of several construction projects completed throughout the Novi Community Schools district this summer.

While all nine schools and the Educational Services Building had work done on them, a large portion of the work was confined to the high school.

The projects included concession building toilet room upgrades, stadium expansion for ADA seating, main building locker room upgrades, baseball field dugout replacement and baseball field toilet building addition.

Athletics director Curt Ellis said the improvements will "make a tremendous impact on not only our student-athletes but the community as well."

"The locker room renovations which include new show-

ers, improved lighting, new benches and a resurfaced floor bring those facilities to the level of quality Novi has exemplified through the years," Ellis said. "In addition, the dugouts and restroom facilities at baseball not only provide our players and fans with first-class facilities, they satisfy some of the Title IX concerns that existed there. "And last and certainly not least are additional handi-

Please see **PROJECTS, A2**



JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
One of the many Sinking Fund projects being undertaken by Novi Schools is the improvement to the high school's baseball field and an addition of a permanent bathroom.



JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Novi resident Amanda Morgan strums her guitar in her home on Aug. 15. Morgan's tune "Just Wanna Know Why" recently topped 96.3 WDDV-FM's "The Radio Cafe" Indie Music Channel poll. The 17-year-old recorded the song in New York City when she was 15.

Chasing a dream

Chart-topping Novi teen to perform at Arts, Beats & Eats

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Amanda Morgan was just 4 years old when her singing talent was first recognized in a nursery school play.

She was getting on stage at family parties singing with the bands three years later. By age 10, she had written her first song.

Now 17, and a senior in high school, the Novi resident has the number one song on 96.3 WDDV-FM's "The Radio Cafe" Indie Music Channel poll.

"Just Wanna Know Why" is her second song — the first was

"Ten Steps Back" — that has topped the charts in less than a year, making her the youngest artist to ever lay claim to the top spot as chosen by listeners.

"It feels really good and is nice to know that people believe in my music that much," she said. "It's a little surreal."

Morgan, who recorded her first CD at 15 in New York City with Sean Burns and Fran Cathcart called "Land of an Endless Sea," grew up in a musical household and taught herself to play the guitar three years ago.

Her music is a cross between pop, rock, country and adult alternative, and her focus is

on getting into the pop country genre.

The inspiration for her music comes from her life, and her teenage years have been anything but normal. Morgan said it has been hard maintaining friendships because of the demands of her career, and many people don't respect what she is trying to accomplish.

"Instead of crying into a diary, I cry into my guitar," she said.

Her mother, Mary Ann, said while it has been hard to see her daughter hurt, it's also

Please see **TEEN, A2**

Council approves redesigned pathway

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The Nine Mile Pathway project appears as though it will stay on schedule after the Novi City Council approved the construction contract Monday night.

After hearing from residents several times in the spring, council chose to change course from a federally funded 10-foot wide path to a six-foot wide path. The decision cost the city \$146,200 in federal money — as the pathway had to be 10 feet wide to meet federal requirements — and will require them to pay a total of \$198,057, up from the \$97,480 they were originally going to spend as a match for the grant.

Still, the project will be a cost savings from the original construction estimate of \$225,000.

"We are looking forward to getting this built because it's an important link between Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads," said city manager Clay Pearson.

The project was identified by the Walkable Novi Committee as its top priority because it will provide connectivity to Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads as well as the I-275 shared use trail to the east. It is scheduled to begin in September and be completed by the end of fall.

In the spring, trees will be installed along the public right-of-way.

Please see **PATHWAY, A2**

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TEEN

Continued from page A1

made her more mature and prepared to handle an unforgiving industry. Said Morgan: "I know if I don't believe in myself I won't make it."

And that belief is what drives her every day. On top of performing, Morgan — with the help of mom and dad, of course — manages her own career. She runs her website, www.amandamorganmusic.com, looks for shows, and when someone orders a CD or souvenir from her site she is the one who packages it and sends it out.

The teen also had to show mom she could manage both her school work and career, and she hasn't disappointed. Mor-



JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Novi musician Amanda Morgan, 17, will be performing at Arts, Beats & Eats on Sept. 3 at 12:30 p.m. on the Citizens Bank Stage, her biggest performance to date.

gan plans to attend college in Arizona next year and pursue a degree in business economics. "I will be a chief econ-

omist (if singing doesn't work out," she said, noting that she hopes to have a record deal when she is 18.

MaryAnn said performing always came "naturally" to her daughter and her "wow factor" is what makes her unique. "Seeing her live is what people need to see," she said. "She is a natural on the stage."

Morgan, who is constantly thanking her fans, said her career highlight so far is seeing a video of a 6-year-old girl on YouTube singing her songs. She even told Morgan that she wanted to be her for Halloween.

Being under 18 has kept Morgan out of getting some larger gigs, but that will change on Sept. 3 when she is set to perform at Arts, Beats &

Eats in Royal Oak. Morgan is one of more than 250 music acts at the event, and will be on the Citizens Bank Cultural Stage from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. that Saturday.

"It's definitely the biggest (show), and I am excited for the exposure," she said. Morgan will have her CD as well as other swag available for purchase, but ultimately she hopes people enjoy her performance.

"I hope they get a feel of who I really am because I try to write songs people can relate to," she said. Fans can contact Morgan on her Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AmandaMorganMusic.
nmuel@gnannet.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

PROJECTS

Continued from page A1

capped seats at the stadium. While we have always been ADA-compliant, the new handicapped seating section will allow those spectators with an unobstructed view of the game."

All of the projects were funded by the sinking fund, which voters renewed in November 2010 for another 10 years at a millage rate of 0.4932 mills.

The fund can only be used for small construction projects and repairs — not educational programs or wages and benefits — and has been used for over \$8 million worth of projects since 2001. Roughly \$900,000 was budgeted for this year.

Other work completed this summer was upgrading the main lobby and main corridor at Parkview, restoring the roof, replacing classroom marker boards and building outside storage at Novi Woods; installing new attic doors and improving insulation at

the ESB; new fencing, new masonry screen wall and outside storage at Novi Meadows; fencing at Village Oaks; underground drain replacement and additional sidewalks from 11 Mile at Novi Middle School; and new sidewalk approaches along Wixom Road and outside storage at Deerfield.

More projects also are coming in March that deal with mechanical issues.

"These are all the kinds of things we talked to the public about before in terms of repairs and upgrades and all the kinds of things we really don't want to spend money on outside of our operating budget so our operational budget can be focused on our kids in the classroom," said Board of Education Vice President Dennis O'Connor.

The majority of the projects should be done by the time school starts on Sept. 6 or shortly thereafter.

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PATHWAY

Continued from page A1

City purchases new street sweeper

Novi streets will be

a little cleaner this fall after the city council approved the purchase of a new street sweeper.

The current six-year-old street sweeper required new sheet metal that had deteriorated over-time, forcing the city to

upgrade. The 2012 Tymco 600 will cost the city \$206,000, but they will be getting \$20,000 for trading in the existing sweeper to bring the total cost down to \$186,540. That is under the \$200,000 that was

budgeted. The new sweeper is expected to arrive within the next two months, and the existing sweeper will be used until that time.

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JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Just weeks after getting his driver's license, Novi High School student Morgan Wiley, 16, has already soloed in this Cessna 152. Wiley, pictured here at the Oakland South West Airport near New Hudson, wants to work towards his pilot's license and hopes to one day fly commercial jets.

The view from above
Novi teen begins trek toward career as a pilot

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

A driver's license is a big deal to most 16-year-olds.

But for Morgan Wiley, it just means he has to wait another year before he can get the license he really wants — a private pilot license.

Wiley, a student at Novi High School, recently completed his training at the Oakland/Southwest Airport in New Hudson and took his first solo flight in Howell last Tuesday.

Flying is something he has always wanted to do since he was a kid, saying the "view" is what makes it so amazing.

"It's a totally different perspective that you can't get riding in a car or on a train," he said. A discovery flight, where Wiley went up with an instructor for 30

minutes, confirmed his passion for flying. He then started a nine-week ground school course, learning the ins and outs of flying, before getting in the plane with an instructor to train in the air. After 22 hours of flying, he was able to go up by himself.

While his mother, Barbara Wiley, admitted it was "pretty nerve wracking," she also was confident.

"We knew he was ready," she said. And as for Wiley, there was no shaking his concentration during the three takeoffs and landings he had to do as part of the solo flight.

"Focus, focus, focus," Wiley said when asked what he was thinking while up in the air. "I was a little anxious, but I knew I could do it." American Aces flight instructor Joe Mills

said Wiley was more advanced than other students he has worked with because he used flight simulator software on the computer.

Wiley also is only the second 16-year-old since 2003 to complete his solo with American Aces.

"He was pretty smooth right away," Mills said. "And (during his solo) I didn't have to talk to him on the radio at all. He came in real nice."

Wiley still has to complete another 20 hours in the next year before he can get his license, but he doesn't plan on stopping there as he hopes to pursue a degree at Western Michigan University in the professional pilot program.

"Eventually I want to join the airlines," he said. nmuel@gnannet.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255



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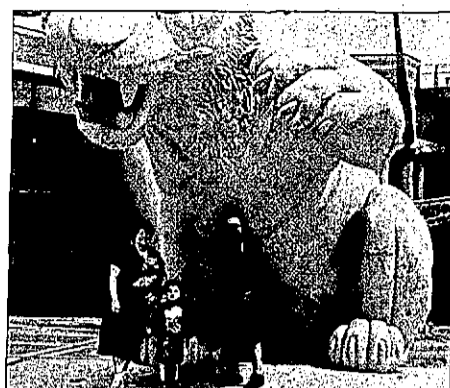
New Jersey family touched by kind response in time of need

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The saying "have a safe trip" now carries a lot more meaning for Liz Clogher and her family. Clogher, husband Marc Laqui and their two sons, Brendan, 6, and Darren, 4, were in Michigan as part of a baseball stadium road trip that had them stopping at Comerica Park when the unexpected happened.

The New Jersey family was leaving Chuck E. Cheese's in Novi on July 27 when their van was hit by a driver who ran a stop sign. The driver then fled the scene, while the family, though not injured, was stranded.

"Our world was rocked," Clogher said. But what happened next helped ease the pain a bit.



Liz Clogher and her husband Marc Laqui and their two sons, Brendan, 6, and Darren, 4, didn't let their car accident ruin their trip to Comerica Park to see the Detroit Tigers.

Two witnesses took off after the suspect, with one following him for 45 minutes before being able to obtain the license

plate number. Another couple, on their first date since returning from a 16-month stay in Thailand, stopped to let the

two children sit in the car and get out of the rain.

Police were able to track down the driver based on the information and issued him a ticket. "We were totally blown away and taken aback by how great everyone was," Clogher said. "People genuinely went out of their way for complete strangers they will never see again."

Because the family's van had the front end tore off and couldn't be driven, Clogher said she was expecting the worst-case scenario in terms of getting help. Instead it was the exact opposite.

She said the people from Hadley's Towing, Howe Auto Body and Enterprise couldn't have been more helpful to the family, allowing them to continue their trip and

get home safely to New Jersey.

"It can be particularly difficult to experience an accident at any time, and that can be even more difficult to endure when you're 600-plus miles from home, traveling with young children and you know no one in the area," she said. "You immediately feel extremely vulnerable and anxious. You fear being taken advantage of or further victimized. There's not much more to say than we were really touched by the sheer kindness of so many at a time of great misfortune."

The family returned to the area last week to pick up their van and head back home with a valuable lesson learned. "We learned it doesn't

matter where your insurance policy is from, it matters where you have your accident," she said.

"Different states, different laws and different ways of handling claims."

The accident has caused the family to shell out a "couple thousand" dollars. And, because Michigan is a no-fault state, their ability to seek restitution from the suspect is limited.

Clogher said that has been the "most frustrating" part of the situation and leaves a bad taste in her mouth about Michigan despite "how nice the people were, how beautiful the state is and how much our kids enjoyed watching a game at Comerica Park."

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Breakfast is served Last three elementary schools in district to offer morning snack

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The breakfast program in Novi is expanding once again this school year to include all nine schools.

Novi Meadows, Orchard Hills and Village Oaks were added last year, and due to the success, the board of education has decided to add the final three elementary — Deerfield, Novi Woods and Parkview — on a pilot basis.

The program will start when school starts in September and runs through November before a report will be brought back to the board regarding participation levels, cost and other pertinent information. If the board chooses, it can extend the program through the rest of the school year or end it.

JoAnn Clements, director of nutrition and food service for the school district, said she was surprised at how well it was received last year, and noted that teachers saw an impact on their students.

WHAT'S IN IT?

A typical breakfast kit contains 100 percent juice, two servings of a whole grain product and milk. Cost is \$1.50 for a regular student, \$0.30 for reduced and free for those students who qualify.

"We noticed a change in the behavior of the students who get breakfast in the morning," Clements said. "It has helped the children learn, pay attention and stay focused."

A school district is mandated by the state to provide breakfast if 20 percent or more of a building's enrollment receives free and reduced meals. Novi doesn't have any schools that meet the criteria, but two are close — Village Oaks at 18.55 percent and Orchard Hills at 18.85 percent.

Thus Novi's decision to provide breakfast for students is voluntary, but as some officials said, is needed.

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Steve Barr said many students are not ready to eat at 7 a.m. or 8 a.m., and the breakfast program gives them another option.

"There are also parents out there who see this as a convenience," he said.

Superintendent Steve Matthews noted that being hungry can effect concentration, and the breakfast program is a simple way to combat it.

"Ultimately this is a benefit academically in a way that will not cost the district any money," he said.

Barr noted that the district could actually profit from the program, however slightly, and that it would only require 15-to-20 minutes a day from a food service worker.

Clements said an average of 37 students a day at the elementary took advantage of the program last year, with a high of 60 students on one day at its peak.

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(248) 437-2011, ext. 255

By Steve Matthews
Guest Columnist

On Sunday, I watched the last inning of the Detroit Tigers game. The Tigers had a big lead early, and then the Cleveland Indians came back and trailed by only one run entering the 9th inning. The Tigers brought in their closer, who had been perfect all season, to finish off the game.

Rather quickly, the Indians had runners on second and third with only one out. A simple single could put the Indians ahead. It appeared that the Tigers were on the verge of losing.

The loss would have been disappointing. The Tigers had once led 7-0. It is not too much to expect that a major league team should be able to win when it has a lead of seven runs.

But the pitchers started to wobble and the hitters failed to hit. It looked like the Indians would come back and win.

Then a sterling defensive play saved the game. The Cleveland batter hit a fly ball to center field. The center fielder caught the ball and made a perfect throw to home plate. The Cleveland runner, who had tagged up on the fly ball, was out as he crashed into the catcher.



Super Talk
Steve Matthews

win games. Everyone has to contribute. When one part of the team does not perform, it is up to another part of the team to step in and make the plays.

I thought about our school district. We have a winning team. On almost any measure, our district comes out on or near the top. We have high test scores. Our parents are involved. We have award winning teachers and administrators. Our facilities are first-rate. Our budget is in order. We have opportunities for students in and out of the classroom.

How did we get there? How have we been able to develop a winning formula in our district?

I have only been in the district for a short time but I have learned a lot already. The most important thing I have learned is that we have developed a team that supports one another. Our community supports us by provid-

ing a safe and supportive community for students and families. The community also has passed bond issues and a sinking fund that support technology and building infrastructure.

Our teachers, administrators and support staff also have figured out how to work together. As a result, we focus on student achievement and marshal our resources to support students in the classroom.

Even with all of the support that we have in our district, there will be times that we stumble. Just like the Tigers yesterday, we may sprint out to a lead and then find ourselves struggling to finish off the win. When, and if, that happens I am confident that our district has the ability to rally, support one another, and finish the job that we have started.

I am excited to be a part of a team that will support one another so that our students can ultimately be the winners.

Steve Matthews is the superintendent of the Novi Community School District. He can be reached at smatthews@novi.k12.mi.us, (248) 449-1204, www.twitter.com/dcsmatthews, or www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com.

Five time-saving tips to get ready to go back to school

(ARA) — Summer trips are wrapping up and kids are counting down the days until they have to go back to school. With many parents weighed down by worries about escalating back-to-school costs, brushing up on tips and tricks for making the summer-to-school transition smoother will be helpful for the entire family.

In fact, a recent survey by Bing and Impulse found that 52 percent of parents are the most concerned with the price of school supplies. To save time, money, and lighten up the mood, try implementing these tips from Lisa Gurry, a past recipient of *Working Mother Magazine's* Mom of the Year award.

• **Shop early:** Schools often provide a long and daunting list of required school supplies. Don't try to buy everything in one day. Rather, be open to grabbing items you see on sale while out and

about throughout the summer. Use local coupon-finding tools, like Bing for Mobile Deals on m.bing.com to find daily deals on all the supplies you're looking for.

• **Get (cleverly) organized:** Reduce the amount of time you spend running around the house looking for the keys, backpack, and lunch boxes by picking a location for each item. Try leaving your keys in the fridge with your lunchbox so you'll never forget the lunch again.

• **Pack a healthy lunch and freeze a few dinners:** Make sure to pack healthy lunches for your children that will help protect their immune systems and energy levels during the new transition. Great lunch options include chicken wraps and strawberry and cream cheese sandwiches. Another great idea is to prepare a few healthy dinners in advance and freeze

them so you'll have one less thing to worry about. Check out Bing.com for healthy dinner recipes like chicken noodle soup.

• **Get advice:** Don't forget to use your network of friends to find the best deals. Share your shopping list with your friends using Bing Shopping and get advice from your trusted friends about what they think are the best purchases.

• **Routines rule:** Nothing causes more stress or confusion than an inconsistent schedule. Create a schedule early on and make sure you stick to it. Try to re-establish the bedtime and mealtime routines at least one week before school starts to prepare your children in advance.

Going back to school doesn't have to be a stressful experience. With a few simple tips, you can make back-to-school transition more efficient, less of a hassle and even easier on your wallet.

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Teens tout the perks of using the library

September is National Library Card Signup Month

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

The Novi Public Library's vast resources and central location make it an ideal spot for area students.

And with the school year starting in less than two weeks, a pair of local students are trying to get the message out to their peers that the library is the place to be for after-school work.

"Compared to the old

library there is so much more available, and we want people to see how valuable their library card is."

The old library was limited mainly in terms of space, and the new facility, which is a 24-hour writing center) and Power-speak (which provides on-line language learning) among others give students extra help they may not get at school or home.

Kakar said coming to the library keeps him focused. "If I go home, I get into relax mode. But when I'm here I see tables and chairs and a perfect study area, and it keeps

GRAB A CARD

The month of September is National Library Card Signup Month, and Novi is looking to add on to the 29,141 residents who currently hold cards.

Novi library cardholders are entitled to many advantages, specific to Novi, including several databases and programs.

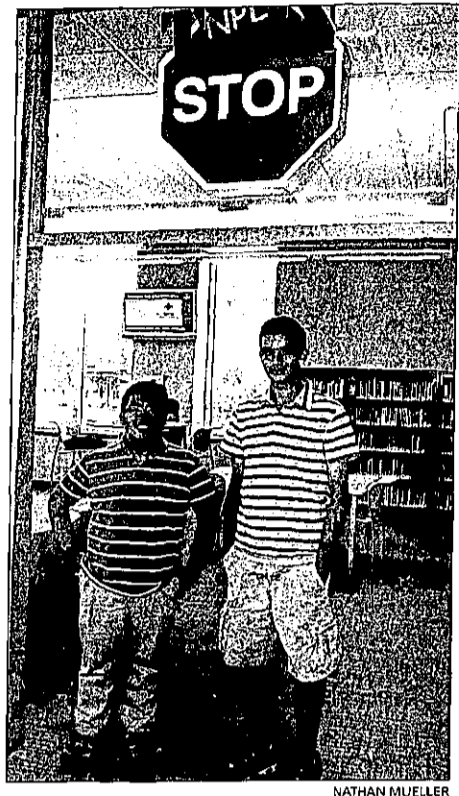
A library card is free to all residents. Those over 18 years old can sign up at the library using their driver's license or photo ID and proof of Novi residency, while those under 18 need to have a parent or guardian present.

There also are plenty of entertainment options for students as well. The Teen Stop on the second floor features two video game systems, card holders can download books to their e-reader and to their mp3 player and the library also has a growing collection of video games, DVDs and Blu-rays to check-out.

Yu, who is in the process of creating a Facebook page for teens and tweens, said the previous facility was not as inviting, but the new building has changed that mindset.

"Now when I bring people here they say 'wow,'" he said.

Assistant Director Margi Karp-Oppener said it's important that the library has something for everyone, and she is encouraged by the number of



Torry Yu, left, and Nishant Kakar are reaching out to their classmates to get them to come to the Novi Public Library and see all it has to offer.

teens and tweens she sees on a regular basis. "We want to create that relationship with people who will be life-long learners," she said.

For more information about the library, visit www.novilibrary.org.

nmuello@npsnet.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

Nosin' around



A horse at the Maybury Riding Stable awaits its next rider on a hot July 6 afternoon.

JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sharing their stories and walking to cure diabetes

This year, in addition to the many walkers that are coming together across the country to fight diabetes, a visible movement of Red Striders will be part of the American Diabetes Association's Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes event on Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Detroit Zoo.

Red Striders are people with diabetes who are part of the Stop Diabetes movement by raising awareness of diabetes and raising money to help change the future of the disease by participating in American Diabetes Association-sponsored walks across the country. Representing people with type 1, type 2, or gestational diabetes, Red Striders know what it means

to have diabetes and they want others to understand that diabetes is a serious disease that can have deadly consequences.

This year's Red Strider Ambassador in Metro Detroit is Kristina Stewart. Stewart is a 26-year-old newlywed who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of 6. She has been involved with the walk and the American Diabetes Association for many years. Her team is made up of loving friends and family that work hard to be one of the top fundraising teams every year. She has been a part of the planning committee and this year takes on a new role as the Red Strider Ambassador.

"There are many faces of diabetes and it can

affect anyone regardless of age, ethnicity, or social status," said Stewart, Red Strider Ambassador, Metro Detroit Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes. "Recognition as a Red Strider is important to me because it gives me a chance to be with other people who really know what it's like to live with diabetes."

Today, there are nearly 26 million children and adults in the United States — over 1 million in the State of Michigan — who have diabetes. While 18.8 million people have

been diagnosed, there are approximately 7 million people who have diabetes but don't even know it. If current trends continue, one in three American adults will have diabetes by 2050.

Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes is a community event for anyone who wants to join the Association's movement to Stop Diabetes. Monies raised for this event go to support the Association's mission to prevent and cure diabetes, and to improve the lives of all people with diabetes. Be part of the Stop Diabetes movement and start raising money today. To register, volunteer or find out more information, please visit diabetes.org/stepout or call 1-888-DIABETES.

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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CONRAD, JEFFREY THOMAS "J.C."
Age 50, of Commerce Twp., died on 8/19/2011. Funeral Mass was held at St. Mary Church, Milford, 8/22. Fr. Manuel J. Chiroco officiated. lynchfuneraldirectors.com

KERR, THE REVEREND DEBORAH VANLEUVEN
After a year long illness with scleroderma, which began in the Lord on August 17, 2011. She was 58 years old, born on December 30, 1952 to James Henry and Ann VanLeuven Biyeu. Deborah grew up in Milford, graduated from Milford High School and met John "Jack" Kerr in a Student Government class in college in 1972. The couple was married on August 22, 1976 in Milford Presbyterian Church. Following a call to the ministry, after her semi-retirement, she was installed in 1991 and took over as pastor of Belleisle Presbyterian Church until June of 2009 when she moved to White Lake Presbyterian Church where she has served to the present. Reverend Kerr had a gift for seeing the sacred in the everyday and the love of God in the kindness shown among ordinary people. She saw in the meek and the mourner and the poor in body or spirit the child of God to be cared for and tended. Her preaching was informed by her wide reading, her careful observations of her fellow pilgrims, a compassion for fellow sinners and an intimate ability to discern the divine in life's greatest trials and the most ordinary moments. Her sermons, dotted on her immediate and extended family, embraced life to its fullest in all its dimensions as gifts of the God she kept faith in till the end. She leaves John "Jack", her husband of 43 years; her daughter, Jennifer; her mother, Alice Ann (Vernon) VanLeuven Biyeu; her brothers, James (Carol) VanLeuven, Paul (Bonnie) VanLeuven, step-daughters, Bonnie Biyeu & Harry Manza, Julie Biyeu & Don VanManza; her brother-in-law, Gerald (Jackie) Kerr; and many extended family and dear friends who join together in mourning while giving thanks to God for her life among them. A Funeral Service was held at the Milford Presbyterian Church, Milford, on Friday, August 19, 2011. The Rev. Anne Stuber officiated. Burial followed at Milford Memorial Cemetery, Milford. Memorials may be made in her name to the Belleville, Milford or White Lake Presbyterian Church. For further information please phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.lynchfuneraldirectors.com

SHEPPARD, CALVIN F., SR.
Age 95, of Kalkaska, Mich., formerly of South Lyon, Mich., passed away at his home on August 14, 2011. Calvin was born on March 6, 1916 to the late William Sheppard and Eva (Gillespie) Sheppard. He married the former Gladys Van Sicile on August 7, 1937, who preceded him in death on May 9, 2011. He was the father of Calvin Jr. (Janice) Sheppard, Richard (Carolyn) Sheppard, Douglas (Shirley) Sheppard, Priscilla, Paul Sheppard, Laura Lewis, Grandfather of 31, and great-grandfather of 32. Besides Gladys, he was preceded in death by one sister, two brothers and two grand-children. Calvin was active in the community as a baseball umpire for high school and summer leagues for forty years. He was a long time volunteer fireman in South Lyon and active in the Pumpkin Fest. He served his church as a greeter and met each one with a smile and friendly hand-shake. The Funeral Service was held on August 19, 2011 at the Elton Black & Son Funeral Home in White Lake, MI with interment at the Oakland Hills Memorial Cemetery in Novi, MI. Please visit www.eltorblackandsonwhitelake.com to leave the family a message.

GRUBB, PATSY ALYCE
Age 80, passed away August 17, in the care of her children. Preceded in death by her beloved husband Elwood Grubb, childhood friend mother to Karen (Tim) Kourt, Laurie Coger, Joe (Candy) Kourt, Wendy Scherer, Grandmother to Chris Coger, Justin Kourt, Ryan, Joey, Kira Grubb, Alana and Mark Sadler. Great Grandmother to Nicholas, Emily & Brooklyn Grubb. Born 3-17-1931 in Detroit. Patsy cared for her own parents and many siblings with illness throughout her lifetime, yet was able to give love, support and strength to her own 4 children & husband. She always said raising children was the most important job in the world. A simple, proper, strong, quiet & very private woman. Mom loved family. We love you, respect and cherish you, your strength has taught us how to endure life & we thank you for that. Words can't describe how much you will be missed. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Livingston Hospice. Arrangements entrusted to Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

HELV, F. ROBERT
Age 69, of Highland Twp., died August 21, 2011. Memorial mass was held at St. Mary Church, Milford. Please visit: lynchfuneraldirectors.com

MEASTREET, JOHN A.
Age 72, passed away August 20, 2011. A private family service was held. Arrangements entrusted to Phillips Funeral Home, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

HENRY, GERALD J.
A long time Northville resident, passed away at his home in Fenton on Thursday, August 18, 2011. He was preceded in death by his wife Beverly (Pats), he is survived by sons Michael and David and daughter Cynthia Dixon. For further information please call Ozark Funeral Home: 1-800-331-5051

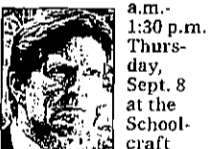
KOHS, CURTIS F.
Age 69, of Northville, formerly of Northville, died on August 18, 2011. Preceded in death by his beloved wife, Kathryn V. Kohs, his father, George Kohs and his mother, Geraldine Kohs. Survived by his loving daughter, Kristin (Case) Powell, brother, George (Charles) and Gary (Connie) Kohs; grandchildren, Memphis and Vera. Also survived by several nieces and nephews, in-laws, extended family members and many dear friends. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Mary Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Milford, Monday, August 22, 2011. Fr. Manuel J. Chiroco officiated. Burial: Rural Hill Cemetery, Northville. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital. For further information please contact Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.lynchfuneraldirectors.com

TROSEN, VIRGINIA "GINNY" RUTH
A longtime Milford resident, peacefully passed away on August 22, 2011. Ginny was well known as the "Candy Lady" at the D & C Store in downtown Milford, where she retired after twenty seven years. She and her husband Richard owned the Dog House restaurant in Highland (currently Duke's) during the early 1950's. Loving mother of twin daughters: Sandra (Dave) Muirhead and Susan (Doug) Linn. Beloved grandmother of Dr. Brandon (Gracie) Parsley, Michael and Cody Muirhead. Proud great-grandmother of: Margie Raquel Parsley. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard of 57 years. She will be missed by many friends and family members, especially her fellow "Chickettes". To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die. A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, August 29, 2011, 11AM at Milford Presbyterian Church. Memorials may be made to the VFW. For further information contact Lynch and Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.lynchfuneraldirectors.com

VANGORDON, RONALD F.
Age 60 died peacefully in the care of his family on August 22, 2011. Burial: Rural Hill Cemetery, Northville. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital. For further information please contact Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit www.lynchfuneraldirectors.com

Coach Babcock to tell of his winning ways

Detroit Red Wings Head Coach Mike Babcock is scheduled to speak at a joint luncheon for the Livonia and Novi chambers of commerce from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8 at the Skyline-Craft College VisTaTech Center.



Babcock

Tickets are \$30 for Chamber members; \$45 for non-members. Tables of eight are available for \$240 for Chamber members; \$360 for non-members. Full table will receive reserved seating. Reservations must be made with payment or valid credit card.

There is a limit of 400 seats available on a first-pay, first-serve basis. For more information or to reserve your seat, call the Livonia Chamber office at (734) 427-2122, or send an e-mail to sweeney@livonia.org, or contact the Novi Chamber of Commerce at 248.349.3743 or info@novichamber.com.

Babcock, who led the Red Wings to the 2008 Stanley Cup championship and the Canadian Olympic Team to a gold medal in 2010, will share how his contributions to the championship-caliber environment of the Detroit Red Wings, his methods of motivating and managing his players, and his thoughts on the upcoming 2011-12 season.

"Coach Babcock spoke at a pre-season luncheon for the Livonia and Novi chambers of commerce last year, and our audience was captivated by what he said as a hockey coach and as a business manager," Livonia Chamber President Dan West said. "This year, we are

pleased to involve our friends from Novi and grow the event." Babcock is embarking on his seventh season as the Red Wings' head coach. He is the first coach in NHL history to win at least 50 games in each of his first four seasons with a team (Detroit 2005-09). He led the Red Wings to consecutive trips to the Stanley Cup Final in 2008 and 2009. He also led Anaheim to an appearance in the 2003 Stanley Cup Finals in his first season as an NHL head coach, after working eight years in the minor leagues and junior ranks. Babcock has also coached three Canadian teams to international tournament victories, including capturing this year's gold medal at

the Vancouver Winter Olympics. Babcock will be available for autographs and pictures for a short period at the end of the program. The Red Wings will provide some game tickets and other items to raffie off during the program. Those who attend the Livonia-Nowi luncheon will receive a discount for tickets to the day-long Detroit Red Wings HockeyFest at Joe Louis Arena on Saturday, Sept. 10.

"The Novi Chamber is pleased to be co-hosting this event," said Novi Chamber Executive Director Linda Daly. "There are a number of Red Wings fans among our membership, and I am sure they will enjoy this opportunity."

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ON CAMPUS

University of Findlay
Kayla Dechart, an equestrian studies major, has enrolled as a sophomore more at The University of Findlay for the 2011-12 academic year. Dechart, a 2010 graduate of Novi High School, is the daughter of Marilee and John Dechart, of Novi.

VOICES & VIEWS COMMENT ONLINE

Your Invitation to Worship

Brighton LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH 905 Pleasant Valley Road, Brighton, MI 48114 810-227-9113 9:30 am. Communion Worship 10:45 am. Sunday School Rev. Dale Footblad, Pastor www.lordoflifechurch.com	Milford CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH 628 Central Motors Rd., Milford Church Offices: 248-484-6666 Regular Service: 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Monday Evening: 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Richard E. Pless, Pastor	Novi ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 48325 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48374 Sunday: 8:00 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Rev. Fr. Michael George, Pastor Parish Office: 247-7776	NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 48377 W. 16th Ave., Novi, MI 48375 Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m. Pastor: John M. Smith, Pastor 248-394-3200 www.umcnowi.com
HOLY SPIRIT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL 133 Detroit St., Milford • 484-5665 Pastor: James Dwyer Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Holy Spirit English Mass: 10:00 a.m. Holy Spirit Spanish Mass: 10:00 a.m. Holy Spirit French Mass: 10:00 a.m. Pastor: Fr. James Dwyer	FIRST BAPTIST OF MILFORD 12320 Old Orchard Rd., Milford Pastor: James Dwyer Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Pastor: Fr. James Dwyer	FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 44400 W. 10 Mile Hwy., 248-348-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. www.faithcommunity-novi.org WELCOME AND INVITED! Services: 10:00 a.m. / 5:00 p.m. Children, Youth and Adult Ministries	CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 3405 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375 Weekday Services: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. Fr. Bob LeClerc, Pastor Fr. Michael Lewis, Associate Pastor Parish Office: 248-3861
OAKPONTE Milford 1700 Oak Hill Rd. 248-655-3500 Contemporary Worship Service: Sunday 10:30 a.m. / 5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert J. Gagnier	WEST HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH 11166 W. Highway 16, Novi, MI 48376 248-867-4218 Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday: All Ages: 7:00 p.m.	MILFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 228 N. Main Street, Milford (248) 684-2065 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. A heritage of over 200 years since 1835.	OAK PONTE CHURCH 50000 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi Sunday Worship: 9:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 5:00 p.m. Casual, contemporary service Phone: (248) 312-6545 www.oakponte.org
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH 2352 Hurley Lake Rd., Highland Contemporary Service: 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sunday Men's Bible Study & Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Sunday 3rd-6th Grade Youth: Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. Pastor: Nick Ruffalo	NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 120 Bishop St., Highland off Milford Rd., 2/3 rd mile N of M-59 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m. Evening Worship: 7:00 p.m. Pastor: Danny Malone 689-7533 or 981-4506	NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1805 Livingston Rd., Highland, MI 48328 248-587-1311 • www.nuhumc.org Sunday Worship: 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Kids Church: 6:45 & 9:30 a.m. Youth Night - Wed. 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Pastor: Tony Adams, Rev. Dennis, Dennis & Lisa Graf & Lisa	FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 3600 Southpark Dr., Livonia Saint Andrew Episcopal Church 3630 Hubbard Road - Livonia South of St. Mile Road All Saints Day: 8:30 - 10:15 a.m. Nov. 11 a.m. Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m. Dr. James St. Anderson - Ministry Provided
NEW HOPE - A Unitarian Universalist Congregation 5785 Grand River Ave., New Hudson, MI 48156 Phone: 481-49108 Sunday Services: 10:30 a.m. / 12:00 p.m. Rev. Suzanne Paul, Minister Website: http://www.newhopeuuc.org	NEW HUDSON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 5670 Grand River Ave., New Hudson MI 48156 481-491-0272 • Rev. Nancy Hester, Pastor Sunday School & Bible Class: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m.	CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN (Mission Synod) Pastor: Terry Helzer 437-6810 • 486-4335 Church Rd. 10 Mile Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 9 a.m.	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH LYON 26020 Maplewood Rd., South Lyon, MI 48178 Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert J. Gagnier Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. / 11:00 a.m. Evening Service: 8:00 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. / 7:00 p.m. Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert J. Gagnier www.fbcsl.com
FELLOWSHIP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 22200 W. 16th Street, Novi, MI 48375 Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. / 11:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. Rev. David Brown, Pastor 248-437-2222 • www.fepcnowi.org	The Church of Christ 21600 Pontiac Trail - South Lyon, MI 48178 248-437-5565 • www.chcnorthlyon.org 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Praise and Worship Wednesday Midweek Ministries 7 p.m. Rob Callcott, Pastor	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 248-348-1144 7777 Westland Ave., Northville, MI 48165 Worship: 9:00 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. / 7:00 p.m. Rev. Dr. Anne Marie Kufner, Pastor Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Sorensen, Pastor Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Sorensen, Pastor	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (U.S.A.) SOUTH LYON Sunday School: 11:30 a.m. Worship: 10:00 a.m. Check us out on the web: www.fumcnowi.org 481-437-2932 • 206 E. Lake (10 Mile) Rev. Dr. Annemarie Kufner, Pastor
NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN Experience Life Each Week Sunday Worship - 9:00 am & 12:15 am Sunday School and Children's Programs www.northvillechurch.org 41335 Six Mile Road 248-348-9300	OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 133 Orchard Dr., Northville WEEDEN LITURGIES: Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:00 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. Church: 348-2821, School: 348-3618 Religious Education: 348-2599 Rev. David Thompson, Pastor	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) SOUTH LYON Sunday School: 11:30 a.m. Worship: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Evening: 7:00 p.m.	ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 274 S. Swanton Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170 Sunday: 8:00 a.m. / 10:30 a.m. 248-348-1144 761 N. Eastland - Plymouth, MI 48170 761 N. Eastland - Plymouth, MI 48170 761 N. Eastland - Plymouth, MI 48170 Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Sorensen, Pastor
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 100 Main Street, Northville, MI 48168 248-348-1144 Traditional Worship: 9:30 & 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship: 10:30 a.m. Children's Program: 9:00 a.m. / 11 a.m. The Traditional Service is broadcast on the radio each week @ 11 a.m. on 550 AM	OUR SAVIOR APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH 54209 E. Mile Rd., Curtice Rd., Northville, MI 48167 Pastor: Andy Whitford Phone: 248-348-2208 Sunday Morning Bible Study at 10:00 AM Sunday Service and Children's Church at 10:00 AM Bible Study: Thursday at 7:00 PM	CROSSPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH 28000 Highway 10 10:30 a.m. - Morning Worship Rev. Dr. Anne Marie Kufner www.cpcnowi.com	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN Wagoner Synod • Reynolds Street Pkwy. at Liberty St. Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m. All Classes: 9:00 Pastor Scott Miller, (481) 437-1551

May you find comfort in Family and Friends



The "Breast of Plymouth" walkers take off from Novi's Village Oaks Elementary on Aug. 12. From left: Beth Bamberg, Michele Potter, Ed Hingelberg, Anne O'Hare, and Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer.

Walking for a good cause



Tim Whalen of Port St. Lucie, Fla., dons some special head gear during the Aug. 12 Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day for the Cure event. Whalen said he's been part of the breast cancer fighting fundraiser for three years now, traveling up to Michigan from Florida.



Walkers leaving Novi's Village Oaks Elementary cast shadows as they head to their next stop in their three-day event.



Many of the vans used to transport walkers and their equipment had creative designs during the Aug. 12 Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day for the Cure event.

Laurie Greenburg of Ann Arbor signs a van with an encouraging message during the Aug. 12 Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day for the Cure event. Greenburg and other walkers stopped by Novi's Village Oaks Elementary for a noon-time lunch and rest.



Barry Blauer and Iris Shen-Van Buren walk on Aug. 12 along Meadowbrook Road in Novi for the Susan G. Komen Michigan 3-Day for the Cure. Blauer, of Huntington Woods said, "I walk because breast cancer attacks the heart of our families." The event is a three-day fundraising and interest-raising event to search for a cure for breast cancer. Walkers passing through Novi that day stopped by its Village Oaks Elementary for a rest and lunch.

Follow 'Feet on the Street' to Detroit discovery

By Stacy Jenkins
Observer Staff Writer

If you love Detroit, you need to know this woman. Belle Isle, Hart Plaza, Greektown, Corktown, Mexican Town, Tech Town, Midtown, Eastern Market—and all points in between—Linda Yellin has got it covered.

The Farmington Hills woman founded Feet on the Street Tours after turning her own passion and curiosity about Detroit into an official business in which she can connect people to the Motor City.

An Oak Park native and Wayne State University alumna, Yellin has loved Detroit for years—and hasn't been shy about getting into its nooks and crannies by talking to people wherever she finds herself hanging out.

A 'people person'

"I enjoy meeting new people," said Yellin. She has befriended many downtown Detroit and Eastern Market merchants and vendors, who welcome her tours into their stores. She's pals with several artists who call downtown home and who invite Yellin's tour groups into their warehouse studio spaces.

She loves Detroit and it shows. Yellin said she's privileged to be able to



A group stops for a photo with the Ren Cen in the background in downtown Detroit.

offer others to experience the culture, the food, the art, the music, the architecture and the people of Detroit through her "experiential" tours that can be tailored for just about any group or occasion.

"I'm having such a good time bringing people from the suburbs to acquaint and reacquaint themselves with the city," said Yellin.

Tours of all kinds

Feet on the Street Tours

offers walking tours in Detroit, bus tours, art tours, strolling dinner tours, neighborhood tours of Indian Village, Boston Edison and Palmer Woods and special themed tours such as the sold out Prohibition and all that Jazz tour on Aug. 25 and the ever-popular Eastern Market: Come Hungry, Leave Happy tours.

She's even hosted a bachelorette party tour for a bride who didn't want a traditional party—she loves history

and loves the city, so Yellin was happy to take the group on a tour.

"I designed a tour for them and they ended up making a day of it," said Yellin. "It was really special."

Good impression

Feet on the Street Tours is a great way for native Detroiters to introduce their out-of-town guests to the city in a positive way. She also does school group tours and has a great relationship with

the International Academy in Bloomfield Hills. "Our students really seem to enjoy Linda Yellin and her staff. Many students have changed their opinion about the city since being on the tours," said Jacquelyn Laymac, International Center director, at the International Academy, in a letter. "Linda loves Detroit and is a true advocate of the city."

City renewed

The tours explore the history of Detroit through its monuments and architecture and also discover the redeveloped areas downtown, Midtown and in Corktown.

"Now we are seeing a revival," she said of Detroit, noting that things started happening after Compuware moved in and when Superbowl XL came to town.

"There's always been people who support Detroit; there are people who have kept the lights on," said Yellin. She wants to encourage people to rediscover the city, frequent the city and support it.

"We need to bridge the gap, the divide that's occurred over the years," she said. "I want to let

people know that they can experience the city in different ways."

Bus tours start and end at pickup points in the suburbs, so tour participants do not have to worry about parking or getting lost downtown.

"The focus, the mission, of Feet on the Street Tours is to reconnect people from the suburbs with the city," said Yellin. "And with these opportunities for cultural tourism."

Making connections

Yellin, who is a social worker, has found a way to incorporate city tours with continuing education programs by partnering with Core Learning to offer programs worth five credit hours. These specially crafted tours meet the criteria for continuing education and focus on social aspects such as food issues and concerns in Detroit; African American history in Detroit; the rise of the city and a special program that explores southwest Detroit and its culture, people and community. To learn more about Feet on the Street Tours, visit www.feetonthestreettours.com or call (248) 353-8667.

stacyjenkins@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2369

Schoolcraft College's Culinary Extravaganza set for Sept. 25

The Schoolcraft College Foundation presents its annual Culinary Extravaganza, a premier food and wine event that highlights the culinary talent of metro area restaurants, pastry shops and beverage vendors.

This year's event, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 25, marks two special anniversaries—the 20th year of the food and wine event and the college's 50th.

The extravaganza allows guests to sample a variety of fine food, wine, beverages and desserts in the afternoon, while at the same time support student scholarships. Proceeds from the event provide scholarships and grants for students. Individual tickets are \$50 each and available at the college or online.

This year's event will feature more than 50 food, wine and dessert stations, a silent auction and raffle, along with a wine-tasting seminar led by vintner Lee Hershler and a wholesome healthy foods demonstration by master chef Jeff Gabriel.

Featured

Food and beverage vendors include Sive Restaurant at St. John's Inn in Plymouth Town-

ship, Toasted Oak Grill and Market in Novi, Old World Olive Press in Plymouth, McCormick Distilling Co. and many more.

In addition to food, attendees can bid on a variety of gifts cards and baskets, including a VIP wine-tasting at Chateau Chantal; a weekend stay at the Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham or sports and entertainment packages.

Highlight of this year's raffle is a Hearts on Fire Diamond necklace from Orin Jewelers in Garden City and Novi, valued at \$3,400. Other raffle prizes include \$500 cash, \$250 cash (two winners) and dinner for two at the American Harvest Restaurant at Schoolcraft (three winners).

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. In addition, each ticket has value even if you don't win a prize. Patrons can redeem the ticket for discounts at the American Harvest, Steve & Rocky's in Novi and the Ironwood Grill in Plymouth. Raffle tickets are available at the college.

For more information or to purchase event tickets, sponsorship packages or raffle tickets go to www.schoolcraft.edu.

Novi News online

Have you checked out our website? It's chock full of local news from the Novi community and is updated often. There are several cool features at www.hometownlife.com that allow you to browse through the latest news and features from your neighboring communities, too, chime in with your opinion on our stories, editorials and letters to the editor, check out our amazing photo galleries and videos that are captured daily by our reporters and photographers. Readers can also find garage sale listings—with a map!—each week from Wednesday-Sunday. So, bookmark www.hometownlife.com to be sure you're always in-the-know in your hometown. You can also find us on Facebook by searching "HometownLife."

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. This one-day signature fundraising walk benefiting the American Diabetes Association commits every dollar raised to playing an important role in supporting the Association's mission: to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

"Diabetes is a devastating disease that touches us all," said Christina Johnson, ADA Special Events Manager. "Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes is such a wonderful event for friends and co-workers to come together and help change the future of diabetes. The camaraderie and spirit that is enjoyed by participating in this event is priceless."

Today, there are nearly 26 million Americans—over 1 million in the State of Michigan—who have diabetes. While an estimated 18.8 million have been diagnosed, unfortunately, 7 million people are unaware that they have the disease. If current trends continue, one in three American adults will have diabetes by 2050.

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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers Novi Civic Center 45175 W. Ten Mile Road to consider:

CASE NO. 11-029 ISLAND LAKE OF NOVI Island Lake is requesting exceptions from Sections 28-6 (3) Temporary Signs and 28-1(a) Prohibited Signs of the Novi City Sign Ordinance, to allow placement of 3 oversized real estate signs and 2 oversized directional signs. The property is zoned RA and is located south of Grand River Ave., north of Ten Mile Rd., east of Napier Rd and west of Wixom Rd.

For more information on Signage Please contact the Planning Department, please call 248-775-8312 or visit our website at novi.org

Published: August 25, 2011

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PHOTOS BY HAL GOULD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Owner Lori Kolodziej (right) and baker Judy Stevenson show off some of the sweet treats offered at Blue Apron Baking Company in New Hudson.

A fresh alternative

Independent bakery brings its sweet stuff to New Hudson

By Diane Gale Andreassi
Staff Writer

Lydia Hickman watched patiently as Blue Apron Bakery was being built on Lyon Center Drive in New Hudson, and when the doors opened for business she was primed to satisfy her taste buds.

"It's really good, actually," according to the New Hudson resident, who bit into a sample of the cinnamon swirl bread and walked out with a loaf.

"We go to the Starbucks (next door) and we were watching construction and we noticed that they were finally open."

Lori and Jeffrey Kolodziej, of Novi, brought the first of its kind independent bakery to New Hudson on July 20.



Blue Apron Baking Company owner Lori Kolodziej weighs out some bread dough, which is made from scratch in the bakery.

"We're trying to focus on whole grains and healthy alternatives and we have the sweet stuff with cinnamon rolls and sweet breads," said Lori, who works at the bakery full-time. Jeffrey has a nine-to-five job and works at Blue Apron Bakery on the weekends.

They actually mill the certified chemical-free Montana hard red spring wheat in the back of the bakery using a 20-inch stone mill. There are no preservatives and Lori says they only use "essential ingredients."

For instance, the honey whole wheat bread has water, whole wheat flour, honey, yeast and salt. Everything is baked fresh daily.

Lori's love of baking prompted her to study culinary arts at Oakland Community College and that was the first step in the couple's journey into entrepreneurship.

"My husband and I have always wanted to be small business owners," Lori said explaining they both have business management backgrounds. They also have two children, Sam, 4 and Justin, 2.

"I always loved to bake," Lori said. "We said, 'Let's give it a try.' We're local, we're involved and we're on site."

Before turning on their ovens Lori and

BLUE APRON BAKERY
Owners: Lori and Jeffrey Kolodziej, of Novi
Address: 30800 Lyon Center Drive, New Hudson
Hours: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday
More info: (248) 446-6007; www.blueapronbaking.com

Jeff researched franchise opportunities and met Kit Frost of Beehive Bakery in Ohio. He offered tips and advice as the Kolodziejs navigated the process of opening their own bakery.

Measuring from Blue Apron's Facebook contacts, more than 160, Lori is happy with the attention it has gotten so far.

"We've already had several repeat customers," Lori said. "They tried it, liked it and they keep coming back. We're encouraged."

Lyon Township Treasurer Patricia Carcone stopped by to see what the new business in town had to offer.

"I'm excited to have a bakery in town and I'm thrilled for them," Carcone said.

Lori also bakes specialty breads, like spinach

Spotify could change online music

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist



Tech Savvy
Jon Gunnells

More than a decade ago, a peer-to-peer file sharing network named Napster revolutionized the way Internet users received and shared their music. For about two years, between the summer of 1999 and the summer of 2001, users who installed the Napster network could download MP3 files from other users.

Napster was great because it was free. Unless, of course, you were part of the music recording industry, in which case Napster was awful — because letting the entire world take music for free is also illegal.

The highly regarded music site was soon shut down and in its place came a number of other illegal file sharing networks, which each had its own legal issues.

Eventually, Apple cashed in the Internet music scene with iTunes — a program that complements the iPod and has dominated the music scene for years. Even with the emergence of online and mobile music apps such as Pandora and Grooveshark, which lets users create custom stations and playlists and listen to music virtually commercial- and ad-free, iTunes has dominated the scene.

But Apple's long reign at the top of the charts may be coming to the end because another revolutionary music site has just made its way to the United States. The site is called Spotify and chances are you've heard about it online, on a friend's Facebook wall or even in

the news. Spotify is a Swedish-based streaming music site (streaming means no illegal downloading) that allows users to browse and listen to more than 15 million songs for free. According to Wikipedia, the site is growing by more than 10,000 tracks per day.

The site remains viable because of sidebar ads and banner ads and also because of commercials in between songs. Moreover, users can create their playlists and access them from any computer. Whereas iTunes can cost up to 99 cents or more per song, Spotify is free and a great option for online music — if you can deal with a few ads.

Spotify can also be accessed on the mobile web as it has iPhone and Android apps. Spotify for BlackBerry is in development. Moreover, Spotify also has social features similar to that of Grooveshark. Users are allowed to create a profile and connect with their friends on Facebook to share playlists and view favorite songs.

It also allows for the integration of playlists of iTunes. And for those who really like the concept of paying for music and skipping the ads, Spotify costs \$5 per month in the U.S. for premium memberships — although commercials on the site are reported to only last as long as 15 seconds.

If you are interested in a cheaper alternative to

iTunes that won't eat up space on your hard drive, visit www.spotify.com to request an invite. All you have to do is put in your e-mail address and when space is available you can begin your free membership. For those who don't want to wait, a number of invites are available for those who have free memberships at Klout.com, a site that is often discussed in this space.

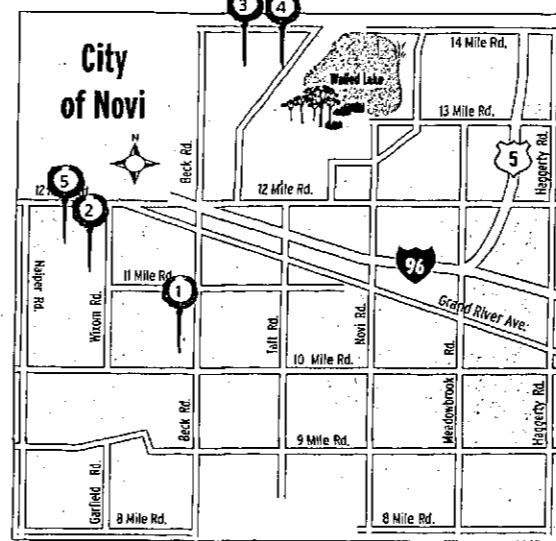
Users who sign up for the \$5 per month premium accounts also don't have to wait in line. Of course, the new incarnation of Napster — a legal music sharing program which is now owned by Best Buy — also costs \$5 per month for unlimited listening.

Spotify recommends that users have computers with processing speeds of 1 GHz or above. For the non-tech savvy, desktop computers purchased in the last seven years or so likely exceed this processing speed. Laptop computers purchased in the past three to six years likely exceed this processing speed.

After launching in the U.S. this summer, Spotify has been valued at about \$1 billion U.S. But only time will tell if that valuation of will continue to grow and if Spotify can continue to creep up on iTunes as the best music destination.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media, driving and playing basketball. He can be reached at jrgunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnShov.

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS



License plate prank

Police believe two Novi High School students are responsible for switching the license plates on their parents cars sometime in early August.

One of the owners, who lives on Woodham Road, noticed his license plate was different on Aug. 17 and called police. After a quick investigation, police called the owner back and explained to him he believes it was a prank as both owners have students at the high school.

Both plates have since been replaced and no charges were levied.

Mailbox blown up

A Novi couple living on Glenwood Drive had their mailbox destroyed on Aug. 21 with a pop bottle bomb.

The couple told police they have been having trouble since June with people egging their home and blowing up a pop bottle bomb in their yard on Aug. 20. Police took both bottles into evidence and extra patrol will be done in the area.

Police have no suspects at this time and the case has been forwarded to the detective's bureau.

Tools stolen from vehicle

A Novi man had his vehicle broken into overnight and items stolen from inside on Aug. 22 while it was parked on Shortcrest Drive.

The victim said the driver's side window was pried off track, and the suspect then gained access to the truck where

they stole his radio and tools. The tools were parked with his initials and are valued at an estimated \$1,000. Police have no suspects.

CDs, radio taken from car

An unknown suspect broke into a Honda Civic overnight on Aug. 22 while it was parked on Timberlane Court, stealing CDs and the in-dash radio.

Police observed that a screwdriver was used to pry open the window and took it into evidence to be processed for prints. The total value of the items stolen is estimated at \$700.

Police have no suspects at this time and the case is still under investigation.

Car vandalized with spray paint

A Novi woman had her Honda Odyssey sprayed with paint overnight on Aug. 10, and then on Aug. 15 her license plate also had been painted while it was parked in the driveway of her home on Kentucky Avenue.

The woman said she did not know who did it, but noted that similar colored spray paint has been seen all around the area, on street signs, other cars and public areas.

Police are currently investigating the vandalism.

— Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

Helping in time of need

Public safety department works toward creating benevolent association

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Public Safety Director/Chief of Police David Molloy hopes the newly-created Novi Police and Fire Benevolent Association never has to be used for its intended purpose.

But in the event of a tragedy, Molloy said the two departments want to be better equipped to provide support to families in their time of need.

"Earlier this year we had the death of Livonia Police Officer Larry Nehasil," said Molloy. "And while it's something we hope we never have to deal with, it brought to light that we don't have something of that magnitude to help the families and their children."

The creation of the association has been in the works for over a year, with 90 percent of the 107 members who responded to a survey being in support of creating it.

The group has been approved as a non-profit by the state of Michigan, and are in the process of creating a board of directors made up of community and business leaders as well as representatives from the five bargaining groups under the public safety umbrella.

"It's a great way for us to bring all our public safety professionals together to work toward one common goal," Molloy said.

While most benevolent associations support public safety personnel from

their community and surrounding communities, Molloy wants to expand it even further.

"If there is a needy individual in the community who needs assistance, we want to help out," he said.

The kick-off event for the Novi Police and Fire Benevolent Association is a golf outing on Sept. 30 at the Links of Novi. It will be a shotgun start at 10 a.m., and the cost is \$125 per golfer, which includes golf, breakfast, lunch, steak dinner and entry gift.

For more information, contact novipfba@gmail.com or call (248) 444-2921.

[nmuellet@metnet.com](mailto:nmueller@metnet.com)
(248) 437-2011, ext. 255

Novi eye doctor charged with prescription fraud

The owner of Suburban Eye Care in Livonia has been arrested on charges of violating the Controlled Substance Act.

Dr. John Jacobi, 48, of Novi was arrested Monday at Suburban Eye Care, 32415 Five Mile, by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), assisted by the Livonia Police Department. He is charged with 30 counts of obtaining hydrocodone by fraud, according to a news release from the Livonia Police Department.



Jacobi is accused of fraudulently prescribing himself and others 96 prescriptions for a total of 5,640 doses of the pain killer over a two-year period. Each count is a felony with a maximum sentence of four years and/or \$30,000 fine.

He was arraigned in 16th District Court of Livonia Monday on all

30 counts. He was given \$50,000 personal bond. A preliminary examination has been set for Aug. 29 in 16th District Court.

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Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security Disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only rely on the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee unless and until the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggarty Road just north of I-275. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

City of Novi's marketing campaign to be recognized at MEDA's annual meeting

The City of Novi earned first place recognition in the Michigan Economic Developer's Association (MEDA) 6th Annual Marketing Materials Competition. The competition provides an opportunity for Michigan's economic development organizations to have professional marketing firms independently review their marketing materials and receive valuable feedback about the use of creativity, graphic design and content used in marketing.

Novi's full-page print ad, "Novi, Michigan, USA A better place for business," featured in the February 2011 Delta Airline's Sky Magazine, will be recognized for its witty graphics and use of a QR code directing readers to learn more about the City of Novi by using a mobile device. The City of Novi's award-winning ad will be on display and officially recognized at MEDA's Annual Meeting in Bellaire, Michigan on Aug. 25.

The Marketing Materials Competition is a great example of MEDA's vision in leading Michigan's economic development through education, networking and advocacy on economic development," states Ara Topuzian, City of Novi Economic Development director.

The Michigan Economic Developers Association (MEDA) was founded in 1960, and continues to advance economic development throughout Michigan, and increase the individual member's effectiveness in the economic development profession statewide.

For more information about MEDA contact Ara Topuzian at atopuzian@cityofnovi.org. For more information on economic development in the City of Novi, visit InvestNovi.org.

OUR VIEWS

Back to school

Help students have a rewarding year

With summer coming to a close, perhaps your child is resisting trading in his or her fun, leisurely schedule for the school routine.

"End of summer is bittersweet for some children, while others are much more fearful about going back to the classroom," said Wie Pan, executive director of Huntington Learning Center of Canton. "No matter what your child's demeanor, it is beneficial for parents to prepare their child for the change."

Pan offers these six tips to get your child ready to head back to school.

1. Take your child back-to-school shopping. Spending a day together buying school supplies and maybe even a new back-to-school outfit is a fun way to get into the school mode and a good opportunity to let your child tell you the things he or she thinks will help make him or her successful. It's also a good chance for parents to have one-on-one conversations with their children about any goals they have for the year and how they can be supportive of their children.

2. Introduce your child ahead of time to another classmate or two. A few weeks before the first day of school, reconnect with friends from last year who will be in your child's new class. If your child is new to the school, look around your neighborhood to find other children of the same age. A back-to-school night may be a good opportunity to meet other classmates too.

3. Plan on getting extra help. For students who struggled in the previous school year, the idea of going back to school may be especially stressful. Summer is a great time to build skills and improve weaker areas, but if your summer was focused on other things, now is a great time to investigate supplemental education services for your child. Talk to his or her teacher in advance about problem areas and how the two of you can work together to get your child off on the right foot.

4. Set an optimistic tone. As a parent, you have a lot of influence on your child's attitude toward school. Show him or her through your actions that learning is fun and a part of everyday life. Teach your child to value effort and hard work. Your child needs to understand, too, that failure is something we all experience. What matters is how we learn from it and move forward.

5. Be prepared. Many schools have an orientation a month or so before school starts, which gives parents the information they need about school supplies, dress code, required forms, transportation and more. Being organized and on top of all school requirements will minimize first-week stresses for both you and your child.

6. Meet the teacher. Your school may host a meet-your-teacher day, which is a great opportunity for your child to get to know his or her new teacher before the first day. If not, ask the school if you and your child can come in another time before school starts. Get familiar with the school layout and other school resources that will help your child (the guidance counselor and speech therapist, for example). Let your child's teacher know that you look forward to working together this year.

The beginning of a new school year is full of excitement and promise, and parents can set the tone at home so that their children see it that way, too. Let your child know that he or she has a strong support system in you and his or her teacher. And remember that when it comes to going back to school, a little preparation and a good attitude can go a long way.

To learn more back-to-school tips, contact Wie Pan, Huntington Learning Center of Canton, at (734) 207-7930 or visit at 44630 Ford Road, Canton, MI 48187. For more information on Huntington Learning Center, please call (800) CAN-LEARN or visit www.huntingtonlearning.com.

Source: <http://www.americantowns.com/m/canton/news/tips-for-back-to-school-success-six-tips-to-set-the-foundation-for-a-great-school-year-from-huntington-learning-center-6321597>

COMMUNITY VOICE

What is your prediction for the Detroit Lions this season?



"They have an easier schedule this year so I expect them to be the wild card in the playoffs."
Billy Bell
Novi



"I think they will go 10-6 and make the playoffs. They lost a lot of close games last year so they should have a better record."
Andrew Cho
Novi



"They will go 9-7 and make the playoffs. They improved the defense a lot and made some good draft picks."
Brandon Sanders
Novi



"If [Matthew] Stafford stays healthy they should make the playoffs."
Ori Nagasaka
Novi

LETTERS

Getting the economy on track

Humorist Will Rogers once lamented that the U.S. was in dire need of a good one-handed economist. Trouble was, he opined, economists were always saying, "On the one hand we should do this, but then on the other hand..." Mr. Rogers wrote this during the Great Depression, which you'll recall was your grandfather's depression. For those of us too young to remember, think of Will Rogers as a Stephen Colbert with a cowboy hat and lasso as props.

I would disagree with one aspect of his observation in our current situation. What we need is a good two-handed, or even three-handed, solution to our economic turmoil. As we should expect, there is a lot of populist anger in America. We may correctly credit the Tea Party for giving voice to this economic anxiety. And they should be applauded for focusing our attention on the long-overdue problem of debt reduction. But this group, so successful at opening the debate, risks becoming marginalized with an insistence upon a one-handed solution.

Debt reduction, coupled with infrastructure improvements and revenue growth, would employ all the tools available for a long-term solution to our enduring economic doldrums. In order to address our federal deficit, we must look beyond discretionary spending and tackle entitlements. Our slow economic growth has been an excuse to place infrastructure improvements on hold. This will only frustrate economic growth without adequate transportation, affordable energy, or a well-educated workforce. Finally a comprehensive, long-term solution must address a tax code that will be fair, while providing incentives to put this new economy on the right track.

Ratios have been suggested but, like pledges, should only be used as guides. Without reflection and judgment, these formulations will become obstacles to a long lasting recovery.

If the newly named Congressional Supercommittee can agree on these broad and open ground rules, then the rest of the deliberation will still be anything but easy. Different ideologies and competing values will make compromise difficult and solutions seem unattainable. But our constitutional system planned for that. We've weathered civil war, global wars, and a Great Depression. This debate will be good for America and good for democracy, if we do our job as citizens. To do that job we must demand facts, not platitudes. We must require our elected representatives to passionately fashion a plan that will be good for America,

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

and if necessary, seek a solution that has not yet been seen on a bumper sticker. We need to advance the current debate and seek a three-handed solution. As Will Rogers also said, "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

Ed Gabrys
Northville Township

Recall for right reasons

A two-member panel from the Wayne County Elections Commission recently turned down language to recall state Rep. Dian Slavens, D-Canton. I applaud the panel for their decision.

Rep. Slavens and I do not always agree on the issues, and, oftentimes, we have voted at odds with one another on bills before the Legislature. But as elected officials, we have both upheld our duty to vote on the legislation before us.

While I firmly believe that a recall process is an important part of a representative government, it should be reserved for cases of malfeasance or unethical behavior by our elected officials and not invoked because a legislator has an opposing philosophy to our own or simply casts a vote.

It is unfair to taxpayers to spend their money on recall elections when an elected official does the job that they were elected to do. If we disagree with a lawmaker's philosophy or voting record we can work to vote them out of office at the next election.

These recall election attempts have done nothing but further the partisan fighting and take attention away from the real issues — creating an environment that promotes job growth and responsible government spending. I, for one, will not compromise my conservative values. These conservative values include treating those who oppose me with respect.

The overwhelming majority of voters in my district elected me in November to help fix Michigan. I will continue to uphold my campaign pledge to promote legislation that restores fiscal responsibility to our state government and encourages

job growth.

On issues where we may disagree, rest assured that I will continue to listen to your ideas with respect. These are not simply words. Since the beginning of my service in January, I have demonstrated a sincere willingness to reach across the aisle to work together to fix Michigan. I currently serve as the co-chair of the bipartisan, bicameral SE Michigan Caucus where we are developing joint strategies to return our state to prosperity for all.

It is time to put aside the vindictive partisanship exemplified by these recall efforts and allow our elected officials to focus their efforts on doing what they were elected to do.

Patrick Colbeck
state senator

Buying Michigan and supporting it

It is nice to see all the support of Buy Michigan. How many businesses drive Japanese cars or German cars? It doesn't matter if cars are built here — the headquarters are in other countries. General Motors and Ford have world headquarters here in Michigan.

So, before you start, look at what these businesses owners drive. Do they support GM and Ford? If not, think how looks when you drive a foreign car and you take ads about your business for Michigan. A double standard.

Brian Long
Northville

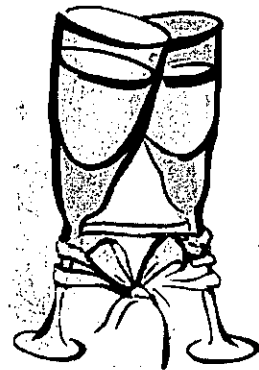
Levin should retire

Just once I wish I could find something I agree with Sen. Carl Levin on. After reading his legislative update he still doesn't get it. The wealthiest (he may be one, but I'm not) already pay the majority of the taxes so don't tell me they need "shared sacrifice." With nearly 50 percent of all tax filers paying zero taxes, they are the ones that need the shared sacrifice. Everyone needs some skin in the game. Only in Washington do you think a household income of \$100k-plus needs a tax break. They don't and I'm tired of paying more taxes to give others tax credits they don't need. Most of these so-called programs that Levin claims benefit the middle class need to be slashed because we are over \$14 trillion in debt. The typical Democratic rhetoric of draconian cuts on American families is nothing but B.S. My only hope is that more Americans who actually pay taxes, will get out and boot out the current administration before this country is totally destroyed by the likes of Levin.

Levin needs to do the citizens of Michigan a huge favor and retire. He has been there way too long.

Linda Sroka
South Lyon

Happy One Year Anniversary!

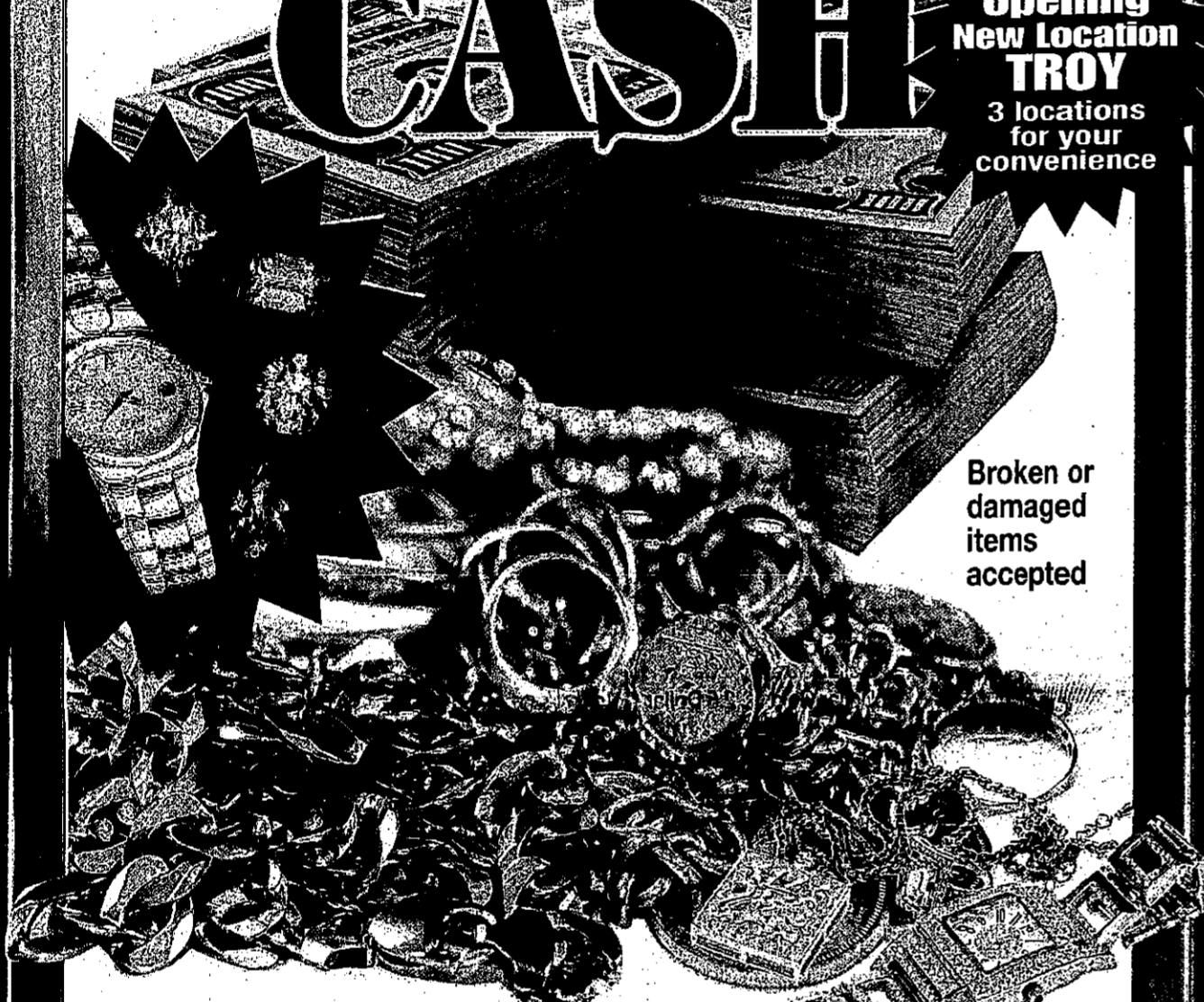


To my wonderful wife Nicole
I love you from the bottom of my heart. You have made this past year the most memorable of my life. I hope the rest of our lives are as blessed and beautiful as our first. Everything we have done from "losing" our map in Aruba to our mishaps in the kitchen you have managed to always make me smile. Even when you force me to go to bed at night to when I wake you up because I just wanted you up. To everything that is "purple" in our eyes. Every day of our lives has been wonderful. Thank you for honoring me for the rest of our lives by saying yes. I love you now and Always. Your beloved Husband

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Wish you were here



The Malarkeys took their Novi News with them and the Life Guard at West Dennis, Mass. took this picture on June 26. "All pictured are Malarkeys by birth, marriage or just the good luck to be friends," said Caroline Malarkey. "We were fortunate enough to find a house, at the beach, that would house all 20 of us for a week." Pictured (back, from left) are Greg Burkhardt, Andrew Burkhardt, Adam Burkhardt, of Novi; Jeff Bowdell, of Westborough, Mass.; Kyle Malarkey, Monique Malarkey, Brian Malarkey, Karl Malarkey, Brad Malarkey and Tom Malarkey, all of Novi; (middle) Lori Malarkey Burkhardt of Novi; Christina Kock of Shelby Township; Amie Bowdell of Westborough; Nina Moriarty of Livonia; Caroline and Bob Malarkey of Novi; M.J. Bush of West Dennis, Mass.; Robbie Malarkey Hurley of Novi; Trevor Malarkey of Novi; and (front) Kira and Sean Hurley of Novi. "Yes, that's a bunch of Malarkeys on the beach. I feel like the luckiest grandmother ever!" Caroline said.

NOVI ENGAGEMENT

Samples & Case

Caitlyn M. Samples and Michael Case, both of Royal Oak, are engaged to be married.

The bride-to-be is the Noreen Schneider and Jack Samples, of Novi. She is a 2006 graduate of Novi High School and earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Wayne State University.

The groom-elect is the son of Dave and JoAnn Case of Grosse Pointe. He is a 1998 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School. He earned bachelor's degrees in history and Spanish from University of Michigan in 2002 and a master's in social work from Wayne State University in 2005. He is a tennis professional at Beacon Hill Golf Course in Commerce Township. A wedding is planned for Oct. 7.



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Novi Field Hockey: Top scorers gone, defensive line returns

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Without the top two goal scorers from one year ago, Novi's field hockey team will have to utilize other options on offense to remain competitive in Division 3.

The Wildcats finished 7-6-1 (6-3-1 Div. 3) last year and losing in the state playoffs' round of 16.

"(The) team will have to find players to step up and fill their offensive shoes," fourth-year coach Any Kilgore said. "On defense, the team will be returning the starting goalkeeper and several defenders."

Senior Shelby Henley will backstop the team in goal, where she earned four shutouts last year.

"Last year, Shelby worked to improve her game and developed into a complete goalkeeper," Kilgore said. "This year, Shelby will build on that experience and will be called on for most of the goalkeeper duties again."

Guarding the crease in front of Henley is a strong core of returning defenders that includes seniors Lauren Pollard, Andrea MacDonough and Amanda Kadykowsky.

Pollard was an All-Division honorable mention last year.

"Lauren has been a mainstay on defense for the last three years,"

ON TAP

After dropping their first contest 4-0 to Livonia Ladywood, (1-0-0) the Wildcats' field hockey team (0-0-0) was looking to rebound Tuesday at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood and in a Friday doubleheader when East Grand Rapids comes to town 10 a.m. tomorrow. The girls are then off until a Sept. 12 match against Dexter.

Kilgore said. "She uses her strong work ethic and stick skills to turn away the other offenses. This year, she will again be centering the defense, but she will also be looked on to start the offense out of the Wildcats' zone."

MacDonough and Kadykowsky both joined the varsity defensive line for the first time last year, but are expected to hold the fort down this season.

"(MacDonough) plays sound positional and has a quick stick to knock the ball away or intercept the opposing passes," Kilgore said. "Andrea has become a defensive leader on the field."

Senior midfielder Natalie Paul will lead the transition into offense. The fourth-year varsity player looks to improve on her two goals and six assists from last fall.

"Natalie is versatile and

can play any position, but this year will see most of her time at midfield," Kilgore said. "Natalie is strong on the ball, and will be a key part of the offensive attack."

Also returning on the attack are senior forwards Samantha Lindberg, Emma Walter and junior Lauren Brown. Kilgore said Lindberg and Walter would be counted on to score this year, as the two combined for 11 goals last season.

"Sam is a hard worker up front. Emma is fast and has a great touch on the ball around the net," Kilgore said.

Senior Karla Ayala and sophomore Megan Paul return to the midfield.

"Karla is a versatile midfielder that can play on either side of the field and brings a lot of energy when she comes on the field," Kilgore said. "Megan will be counted on to be a bigger part of the offense this year."

Jessica Ansara, a senior forward who led last year's junior varsity team in scoring, is also on the offense's radar, while juniors Stephanie Eiler, Tiffany Ghanam, Lauren Zapalas and sophomores Kayla Burkhardt, Lizzie Malear, Haley Notarantonio, Victoria Pryson and Kaleena Sedghi look to contribute after joining the varsity roster.



Wildcat field hockey player Tia Faraon in action in the fall of 2010.

The Wildcats will find the biggest competition from Dearborn Edsel Ford and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood.

"Last year, the team moved into Division 3 and competed for the divisional championship right up until the last week of the season," Kilgore said. "This year, they will look to finish on top of their division and move further in the playoffs."

The girls kicked the

season off with a 4-0 loss at Division 1 Livonia Ladywood (1-0-0) Aug. 18.

"The Wildcats had a tough challenge in their opening game," parent volunteer Tom Pollard said. "Not only was the game only three practice days after tryouts, but it was against a Division 1 team in Ladywood. The Blazers controlled most of the play."

Ladywood scored at the 10-minute mark and followed with another goal off a rebound five

minutes later and then capped off the first half with a goal off a corner opportunity to take a 3-0 halftime lead.

Ladywood mustered one more goal in the second half to set the final 4-0 score.

"The Novi defense, anchored by Henley in goal, kept Ladywood at bay for the rest of the half," Kilgore said.

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

Co-Ed Champs



The Kronk Gym won the title in the Novi Parks & Recreation's Division E Co-Ed. The team includes Hall of Fame boxing trainer/manager Emanuel Steward and champion boxer Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns. "When you hear the name Kronk Gym one usually thinks of champions," said manager Anita Ruiz. "Going into our first season, I thought for sure we were going to win. After the first 13 losses straight, I thought, OK — can we at least one game. We won our last game of the season with a score of 19-7. To go all the way in the playoffs four games in a row in one night, leaving the field at midnight as the Division E CO-ED Champions was a feeling that one cannot explain." This was the team's first season in the Novi league, and they'll be playing in the fall league. Pictured (top row) are Sugar Hill, Jamil Martin "Chop", Adrian Tonon, Bobbie Clemens, Ernesto Ruiz, Brittny Stefanson, Emanuel Steward, Melissa Rayburn, Linda Jesse, Austin Hearns, Thomas Hearns, Steve Atanasovski; (bottom row) Anita Ruiz, Michelle Hughes, Shelly Hein and Robyn Nassar.

Novi Girls Cross Country: Experience powers lady harriers

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

ON TAP

With a handful of key runners returning, coach Marsha Reid said staying healthy will be vital to a successful season for Novi's girls cross country team.

Junior Jackie Mullins was injured for the final leg of last season. Reid expects her to be ready to go full force this fall.

"Jackie Mullins, if we can keep her healthy, should be strong," Reid said. "I'm excited to see Jackie had a great track season."

Sophomore Kerri McMahan, who finished 28th at the Division I meet in 18:31.9, is expected to power through to a successful campaign as well. She continued to work on her speed during track in the spring.

"Kerri McMahan was All-State track long distance last year," Reid said. "We actually have a pretty young team, but, to me, it's a pretty experienced team."

Sophomore Victoria Cortez and freshman Hannah Lonergan are also expected to play a key role in the team's success this season.

"She's running right with Kerri and Jackie," Reid said of Lonergan. "I think I have a solid four I can count on to run together as a pack. If I can keep them healthy, I'll have a solid eight."

Reid also expects contributions from sophomores Kari Grandstaff, Karissa Koomen and

The girls' first meet isn't until 4:30 p.m. Sept. 13 when they visit South Lyon.

seniors Zoe Jenkins and Lindsey Kulle.

"They rounded out my top five last year," Reid said of soccer players Grandstaff and Koomen. "Kari's been running real good for us. (Jenkins) had a great track season and ran real consistent."

With several freshmen joining the squad and some seniors taking their speed to a new level, Reid has dealt with some pleasant surprises. Freshman Victoria Giese is one of many.

"She's a freshman who's shown some potential," Reid said. "She comes from a running family. She downplays that quite a bit though. We have a lot of freshmen who are green; they're very, very new."

After finishing 3-2 in dual meets to land at third place in both the KLA A Central Division and Kensington Conference, the Wildcats are looking to compete with Northville and Plymouth Salem once again.

"Northville's going to be tough," Reid said. "Salem's been tough the past few years. Northville graduated none of them last year."

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



From left to right, Ryan Tgiros, Eric Gardner, Kevin Hanlon and Dan Lee lead a pack of Novi boys cross country runners during an Aug. 12 time trial.

Novi Boys Cross Country: Mid-level harriers promoted to top tier

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

ON TAP

After competing in the South Lyon Invitational 9:30 a.m. Saturday, the boys cross country team doesn't race again until 4:30 p.m. Aug. 27 at South Lyon. Novi was 3-2 in 2010 and the Lions were 2-3.

Graduating five of their top eight runners, Novi's boys cross country team has their work cut out for them.

Seniors Ryan Tgiros, Dan Lee and Eric Gardner were the Wildcats' third, fourth and fifth slot runners last season, but they are all that remains of the top eight.

Cochair Robert Smith, who has run the program for the past 30 years, said Novi defeated 105 teams last year while losing to 23 others.

In the process, the team also won the Anchor Bay Invitational and was the runners-up at the South Lyon Invite, the Michigan State University's Spartan Invite and the Walled Lake Western

Invite.

Graduate Joe Schubring's trip to the state finals marked the 15th straight year that Novi's boys have been at the state meet.

Looking to help the Wildcats stay competitive, seniors Mike Benkarski, Kevin Hanlon, juniors Allen Porter, Tim MacPherson and sophomores Brian Barnes and Michael Dickmann are looking good early, according to Smith.

"Twenty-six out of 38 have either

only one year experience or are brand new," Smith said of his young squad. "We have six very strong captains this year who are doing a great job with the team."

Lee, Gardner, Tgiros, Benkarski, Porter and MacPherson were named captains, responsible for keeping the team focused on the pursuit of division and conference titles.

Livonia Stevenson, Northville, Canton and Plymouth will be the Wildcats' biggest competition in the race for the KLA A Kensington Conference crown.

Novi finished 4-1 behind Northville last season, taking fourth in the conference as Northville won it all.

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

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Novi Girls Swim And Dive: Juniors lead 'Cats into water

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

The Class of 2013 is again looking to be a major factor in the success of Novi's girls swim and dive team. Once a powerful force as freshman, the group of Wildcat juniors look to make waves despite a few key losses to graduation. "Robecan Berman (vars) our biggest loss. She scored high points every time she swam, including All-State honors in 500 free at state meet," first-year coach Annette VanderMey said. "Others point scorers we lost are Madalyn Buha,

ON TAP

The girls first hit the pool for competition 12:30 p.m. Sept. 10 in West Bloomfield for the Laker Invitational.

who also scored at the state level. Jacque Carliss, Abigail Glenn and Sarah Sulama." VanderMey's daughter, junior Andrea VanderMey, will lead the team once again after two years of All-American honors in the 100 back and 200 individual medley. Other key contributors

will be juniors Maranda Buha, Kelsey Shurmur, Dana Morgan, Kara Berg and Janice Thurnat. "Shurmur will be looking for her to step up and contribute big for us in our power events, 200, 500 free and 100 fly," Annette VanderMey said. "Morgan will add to our depth in the 100 backstroke (and) Janice Thurnat is going to add depth to our sprint events. "Kara Berg will be an all around freestyle specialist and will help the team in any of those four events where we need her." The returning juniors will pair with seniors Abi-

gail Hall, Amanda Gutman and sophomore Abby Downs for the 200 free relay. Also joining the relay group is freshman Mallory Buha. "Mallory Buha will score big for us this year," Annette VanderMey said. "She is a sub-minute 100 backstroke coming in for us and fast 100 flyer. She will be a great addition to our team's tradition of fast relays capable of competing for All-State honors."

Also factoring into the teams depth chart will be juniors Morgan Cortez, Allie Tschirhart, Ashley Vaughan and freshmen Alexa Nussio, Lydia Lee and Zoe Psiakis. Novi's young diving program is looking to have a breakthrough season as well, with juniors Rachel Aepelbacher, Lina Davis, Lauren Harrington and Jillian Odum all one year older. "(They) are looking the strongest they have looked in a long time," Annette VanderMey said. "We will be very competitive off the boards. Look for multiple divers competing at the regional level this year, as well as Novi scoring some points for the diving event at States."

The team's main competition will again be Northville and South Lyon Unified. The Mustangs were 6-1-1 (2-2 Central) and South Lyon 11-0 (4-0 Central) last year, while Novi finished third at 4-3 (2-2 Central). "It is always fun to follow and watch our very competitive division battle it out," Annette VanderMey said. "Northville will be a tough competitor for everyone. Novi and South Lyon will (contend)." Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former staff writer for the Novi News.

Novi Equestrian: Wildcats struggling for point producer

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

Despite returning five equestrian team members, the one who graduated in the spring accounted for 83 percent of the group's points last season. Whitney Pollock scored 75 of Novi's 90 points during three meets in 2010 at Milford's Huron Valley Equestrian Center. With Pollock gone, senior captain Mallory Walker will lead the charge. Junior co-captain Alyssa Ninkovich, seniors Samantha Ansara, Calla Spillane and sophomore Jennifer Tosto also all bring back valuable experience from last season. Also joining the team this season are sophomore Alana Keeney and freshman Alicia Kevelin, who participated in Novi's non-affiliated junior equestrian team the past two years. "Our weakness is saddle seat and bareback," third-year coach Lisa Pollock

ON TAP

The equestrian team kicks into action 8 a.m. Sept. 10 at Milford's Huron Valley Equestrian Center. The team will compete in three meets there, with the other two daylong events occurring Sept. 17 and 24 before the potential regional meet begins Oct. 1. "There is no charge to be a spectator, all fans welcome," coach Lisa Pollock said.

"Strength for this season (is) more diverse riders. Six of the seven riders are willing to ride more than one discipline." The three main types of equestrian disciplines are western, hunt seat and saddle seat. There are a variety of competitive skill contests the riders must display at meets.

"Five of our riders will attend camp this week (Aug. 22-2) at Mary-Go-Round on Dixboro in South Lyon," Lisa Pollock said. "The camp is specially geared for equestrian teams, allowing riders to practice showmanship (in hand), hunt seat, western, saddle seat, trail (obstacle course) and gaming." Each Novi rider has their own horse, a luxury that past team members didn't always have. The team members' horses are a mix between primarily quarter horses and thoroughbreds of the chestnut mare of bay gelding varieties. Ninkovich's horse, Einstein, is actually owned by Lisa Pollock and is participating in his sixth season with Novi's equestrian squad. Other horse names are Brisco (Walker), Cinnamon (Ansara), Reba (Spillane), Cody (Tosto), Buster (Keeney) and Noble (Kevelin).

Second at Davison



The Madness 18U fast pitch team recently took second place at the NSA Davison Classic. The team includes (l to r, front) Taylor Jones (South Lyon East), Celia Freeman (Bendle HS), Madison Merlanti (Northville), Rachel Lahiff (Mercy), Jena Young (Walled Lake Western), Megan Hart (Ladywood), Jessie Theume (St. Clair HS), (standing) Head Coach, Gretchen Hart, Coach Doug Scott, Taylor Scott (Novi), Kelsey Weischnier (Walled Lake Central), Colleen Kolls (Novi), Mary Stepek (Walled Lake Western), Rebecca Richter (Novi), Ian Hart (bat boy), Coach Mark Merlanti and Coach Bryan Wolschlag. The weekend featured the strong pitching of Freeman, Richter and Scott, the gold glove of shortstop Young, the power bats of Wolschlag and Theume, Kolls' leaping grab over the fence at third base, turning a foul ball into an out, the slap hitting and bunting of Jones and Stepek, the steady glove of Lahiff in right field and a single by Hart in the bottom of the seventh with two out scoring Merlanti from second base with a game-winning head first slide into home.

NOVI SPORTS BRIEFS

Play It Again Sports offering free hockey equipment fitting consultations

In a survey conducted by the Mayo Clinic, more than 18,000 youth players are treated annually for hockey-related injuries, with inappropriate and ill-fitting equipment among the leading causes. In an effort to keep play safe, metro Detroit Play It Again Sports locations are offering free consultations to ensure all equipment will fully protect the players. Throughout the month of Sept., the 10 area Play It Again Sports locations, including Novi, will welcome parents and players into the stores to discuss any concerns they may have about proper fit, function and comfort of equipment. "When equipment is too worn to protect, the player is at risk for injury," said Ian Somerville, Play It Again Sports store owner in Novi. "And the same goes for equipment that is too big or too small. Our staff here is trained to fit players properly for the upcoming season." Play It Again Sports stores will offer the chance for anyone with questions or concerns regarding equipment fitting to come in for the free consultation. Any minor adjustments will be done free of charge. If needed, parents and players can "trade in and trade up" to a larger size or more protective equipment. Or they can purchase new equipment if anything is missing. "In many cases, equipment is handed down from a neighbor or sibling, and a lot of times the recipient might not understand how it should be used or fit," Somerville said. "What people can do is bring their equipment into the stores anytime. We don't care if you bought it from us or not—we're happy to offer this as a free service to determine if it's safe and fitted properly and not worn out."

Novi Wildcat golfer has hot summer

Novi High School golfer Garret Buckley, a sophomore, won four consecutive Michigan PGA Junior Tournaments this summer with scores of 76 at Buck's Run in Mt. Pleasant on June 27; 73 at Olympia Pointe in Grand Rapids on July 7; 72 at MSU's Forest Akers West in East Lansing on July 15; and 75 on July 18 at Western Golf and Country Club in Redford. "Winning a Michigan PGA Junior Tour event is very tough and a big accomplishment because many of the best junior golfers in the state play in these tournaments," said Ryan Greener, Junior Tour director for the Michigan PGA. "To win four in a row was an exceptional junior golf achievement for Garret Buckley. He should be very proud of the way he played this season." Buckley had the most tournament victories out of the more than 200 golfers who competed in Michigan PGA Junior events over the summer and he finished runner up for Michigan PGA Junior Player of the Year in the 13-to-15-year-old division which was won by Cameron Lippold of Midland.

Student sports broadcaster wears many hats

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent



Novi High's Matt Kearney.

If you've listened to a Novi sports broadcast or been to a Wildcat basketball game, you've probably been exposed to Matt Kearney. The 17-year-old senior has spent the past three years often behind the scenes as an integral part of Novi's athletic programs. Kearney does live Web broadcasts of the all football games, live radio broadcasts of all home boys basketball games, is the student manager, statistician for the girls basketball team, the announcer for varsity volleyball and scoreboard operator for freshman volleyball. He also occasionally films other Novi sports for the MHSAA while serving as the sports director for WOVI-FM (89.5) student radio and as the lead sports anchor for the high school's Cat's Eye News TV station. He obtained most of these roles as a freshman. "When I got to high school, I was watching the Cat's Eye News during one of the first weeks of my freshman year and they had a commercial saying that they were looking for commentators for the football games," Kearney said. "I figured I would go and put my name in and it turned out that I was the only one who applied."

Kearney started the job right away and has broadcast every football game since. This transitioned into broadcasting the boys basketball games in the winter, but that role has been limited by his pre-existing duties as a manager with the girls basketball team, which typically plays at the exact same time as the boys team, just at the opposite site. "I also started that very early, even before I got to high school," Kearney said of the manager job. "In seventh grade, I tried out for the basketball team, but didn't make it. (Gar) Frantz, one of

the middle school coaches, saw potential in me and asked me if I would be his manager. I accepted, not really knowing what to expect, but, after I did it that season, I ended up loving it. I managed for him again during my eighth-grade year and then he hooked me up with (girls varsity coach Bill) Kelp before the start of my freshman year. He and I got along great right from the start and we've been working together ever since." A former football, baseball, basketball and golf player who still gets out to the greens somewhat regularly, Kearney is

glad he's been able to stay involved with sports in some form or another. "To pull it all together, the thing I love about both of these jobs and all of my other roles here at NHS is the fact that they have opened the door for me to be involved in sports, even though my playing days are pretty much over," Kearney said. "I knew from day one that I wanted to be involved with sports in some way and these jobs enable me to do that day in and day out."

When he graduates next spring, he'll join Central Michigan University's renown broadcast journalism program in hopes of one day landing a job at ESPN.

"Ultimately, I want to get to ESPN after college, because there is no better place to be a sports journalist than at the world-wide leader," Kearney said. "I like to say that I have been broadcasting games since I was about 10 years old because, every time I would be watching a baseball, basketball or football game on TV, I would mute the volume on the TV and call the game myself."

Kearney said his father and grandfather's love of sports rubbed off on him at a young age, inevitably leading to his career choice. "It was very fun running around the yard as a young kid and I got the same joy in watching games on TV,"

Kearney said. "The thing I enjoy most about calling the games is the fact that I am doing something that I've dreamed about doing for a good part of my young life. I love the fact that they have never known what's going to happen next and it's all about reacting to that. I'm the eyes and ears of a lot of people when I get behind that microphone and I enjoy the challenge of trying to describe what is happening to a total stranger who can't see it for themselves."

Although his various positions within Novi Nation have introduced him to a lot of people and made him a lot of new friends and connections, Kearney was quick to humbly note it isn't a one-man show. "The main thing that people should know about me is that I didn't get to where I'm at alone," Kearney said.

He said his parents, broadcast teachers, the coaches he's worked with, the student-athletes he's interacted with and his faith have all played key roles in getting him where he is today. After one last season with each sports program in Novi, Kearney could be leading the "Fire Up Chips" chants on the airwaves next fall in Mt. Pleasant.

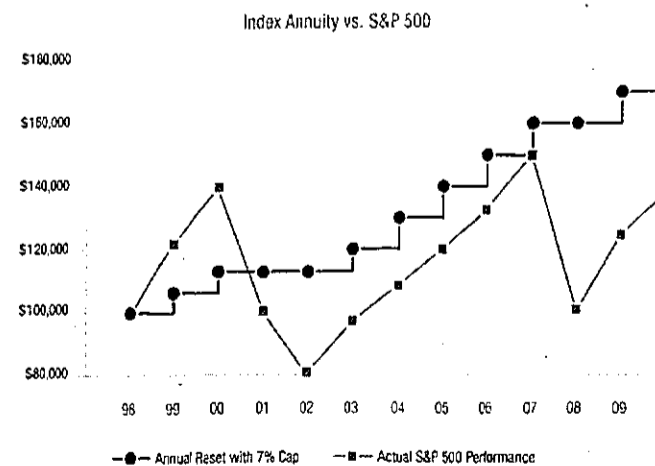
Chris Jackett is a freelance writer and former staff writer for the Novi News.

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CC Football: No reason to fix something that's not broken

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

ON TAP

The Catholic Central Shamrocks football team will be put to the test when they take on the Dearborn Fordson Tractors on the road tomorrow at 7 p.m. "They're going to test us right away," said Catholic Central coach Tom Mach. "Fordson is a good team. We're going to have to be ready for them if we want to win." Fordson finished the season 8-3 last year with a loss in the district tournament championship game. They lost to Catholic Central in the first game of 2010, 35-0.

The Shamrocks, which went 9-3 last season and bowed to Plymouth in the regional tournament, will be coming off running this Friday and will be relying on nothing less than stellar defense to earn victories. "We stake our reputation on our defense," said Mach, who has won 10 state championships, including five in the last decade alone. "We real-

ly believe that you win or lose championships based on your defense." "Thankfully for Mach and his coaching staff, it doesn't take much to convince the die-hard defensive players that don the blue and white each week that they are the key to success. This year's defense will be led by none other than Matt Godin, who has committed himself to play at the University of Michigan next season. The defensive tackle will no doubt find himself a marked man this year being forced to play through double teams all season long from his defensive tackle position.

Safeties Aaron Hess and Dave Racey are back this season and will be key to shutting down the passing games of their foes while Clay Behrman will head up the linebacker corps with his presence in the middle, assisted by the scrappy Anthony Darkangelo at outside linebacker.

Darkangelo will actually be doing quite a bit of double duty as he's expected to be a force at the running back position on your defense." "He runs with a bit of a team," Mach laughed. "He's a tough kid and we have high expectations for him."

Leading the way through the holes the solid offensive line will be making will be fullback Wyatt Shallman.

Leading the offense as quarterback will be Kyle Cooper, a two-sport athlete who also excels at basketball. At 6-foot-7-inches, Cooper has a good look at the field from inside the pocket.

"He's very intelligent and has the ability to adapt to a changing situation," said Mach. "We're very happy with him at quarterback."

The Shamrocks will likely run out of the two tight end set that has brought them so much success in the past, but they won't be afraid to enter a pro set with two receivers or even use the spread offense as needed. "You have to keep other teams honest," said Mach. "If we face a team that is just as tough as we are up front, we're going to throw the ball a lot more."

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

CC Tennis: Great leadership to bring repeat state title?

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

ON TAP

Great leadership can be the deciding factors in many teams' goals. For the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks tennis team, it could be great leadership that brings them a repeat state championship.

The Shamrocks, coached by Joe Stafford in his ninth season, have plenty of talent. More importantly, they have plenty of seniors who are willing to step up and push their team to be the best they can be.

"This year's CC Tennis team has great senior leadership," said Stafford. "We have eleven seniors (seven are starting). Each senior

that to happen we are going to have to practice each and everyday like it is the state finals. If we can bring that type of spirited play to our practice, we can help one another get better."

"Talent isn't something that the Shamrocks have to go hunting for, though they need to find some experience for the 10 new faces on the starting lineup."

This year's roster currently has Michael Dube, a sophomore, at No. 1 singles while senior Eric Guindis is at No. 2, junior Michael Trupiano is at No. 3, and freshman Gabe Apaza is at No. 4 singles.

Leading the doubles flights will be seniors Kevin Hodges and Willy Willson while senior Steven Jakubik will join sophomore Andrew Hinrichs at No. 2 doubles. At the third doubles flight will be senior Matt Hermiz and freshman Steve Magagna while seniors Hamilton Cauffield and Matt Mengel will play the No. 4 doubles position.

No one is expecting a complete repeat of last year when the Shamrocks went a spotless 16-0 in dual meets and earned the Catholic League, Regional and State championships—but that won't stop this year's squad from trying. Not only will they be looking to earn wins for themselves at each flight, Stafford said his athletes will be looking to help their teammates improve each and every week, too.

"At CC, we really pride ourselves on putting the team first," said Stafford. "We know if we are going to accomplish anything this season, it is going to take everyone. These young men are solid student athletes and good people. I can see already early in the season that they care about each other and trust one another. If we can leverage that maturity and get a few breaks along the way, we will be a tough team to beat."

Stafford said that there are five or six schools that could compete for the state championship this year, making the 2011 season "wide open."

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

Novi Soccer: 'Cats return offensive trio of firepower

By Chris Jackett
Correspondent

ON TAP

The Wildcats' (1-0-0) have a tough week to start the season, visiting Canton tonight, hosting Midland Dow Monday and visiting Brighton Wednesday. All games kick off at 7 p.m. Canton and Brighton finished 2010 ranked third and fifth in Division I, respectively.

"This year, the Shamrocks don't have that. But Troy Magni, who is in his 38th year of coaching Catholic Central cross country and his 46th year coaching overall, isn't worried."

"We don't have the top runner as in the past, but we do pack well," Magni said of his team, which returns state finals runners Ryan Boyd and T.J. Fagan, both seniors, and junior Jack Malinowski. "The biggest challenge this year is

to get the runners to step up as now they are the leaders of the team."

A lot of people are watching to see what the Shamrocks are capable of this year after winning the state championship in 2009 and 2010. But, the team will have some big shoes to fill with four of the top seven runners from the 2010 championship having departed with graduation.

The team has a slew of runners that could potentially step up and help the squad in their 2011 campaign.

On the team this year are: Seniors: Shawn Buzzy, Michael Drouillard, Stephen Ebaugh, Thomas Fagan, Colin Fifer, Kyle Gault, David Marnell, Kevin Mills, Danny Savard and Steven Turzewski; Juniors: Mark Buzzy, Brian Carlson, Matthew Carney, Jacob Connell, Preston Felty, Patrick Folk, Cole Forfincki, Evan Hicks, Joseph Hudson, Ryan Hurley, Christian Kuzdak, Nico Lanzetta, Connor McDowell, Jeremy Moniz, Brian Nordstrom, Joe Obarzanek, Mitchell Oleski, Dominic Russel, Liam Schilling, Alex Slavsky, Matt Solarz, Andrew Toloff, Angelo Toppi, Nathan Wilson and Eric Zughaitz; Sophomores: Kevin Belanger, Hunter Cusick, Ben Beaug, Blake Games, Michael Higgins, Steve Katofiac, Gabriel Kokoszka, Nathan Lawera, Ryan McCord, Sean McGowan, Nick Merucci, John Mulcahy, Ryan O'Connor, Matthew Pochowicz, Zachary Racice, Jay Siberski, Sean Stanners, Collin Thompson, Dylan VanBocxlaer and Colin Wilkin; and Freshmen: Brian Clark, Nick Cobb, Ryan Doyle, Spencer Doyle, Jack Evans, Luke Fox, Thomas Herrman, Jeremy Kayden, Sean Kelly, Driscoll Lilley, Ryan Drebeada, Brennan Schilling, Eric Solarz, William Yinton, Ben Worth, Lance Yassay and Cole Zaremski.

The Shamrocks know each and every season what their goals are as Magni has kept them the same for quite some time (perhaps all 38 years): Compete well in the Catholic High School League, be competitive in all the races and try to make the state finals as a team and see what happens there.

"Birmingham Brother Rice and University of Detroit are the teams to beat in the Catholic League, while Milford, Pinckney, Dexter and Lake Orion are the teams to watch out for in the county," said Magni.

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

CC Cross Country: Strong pack could lead to wins

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

ON TAP

There is no doubt that the Catholic Central Shamrocks cross country team has been blessed, so to say, in the past with that outstanding lead runner who could just blow away the competition.

This year, the Shamrocks don't have that. But Troy Magni, who is in his 38th year of coaching Catholic Central cross country and his 46th year coaching overall, isn't worried.

"We don't have the top runner as in the past, but we do pack well," Magni said of his team, which returns state finals runners Ryan Boyd and T.J. Fagan, both seniors, and junior Jack Malinowski. "The biggest challenge this year is

CC Soccer: Taking it one game at a time

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

ON TAP

Joe Nora has been the head coach of Catholic Central soccer for the past nine seasons and in that time he has seen teams that were expected to do great things fail to do so and teams that were expected to be average go out and do great things.

This year, Nora doesn't have a set of all-star players that are expected to lead his squad to the Catholic High School League championship or a state title. Instead, he's got himself some quality athletes and two strong captains in senior defenders Austin Smarsh and Zack Jennings.

His team has the potential to win, but so does every team on the schedule for 2011. Nora's approach?

"We graduated a big group of skilled seniors," he said. "With an influx of young talent and our veteran varsity players, we will work game by game to reach a comfort level in how we play, our intensity and our focus."

The Shamrocks would much rather approach the season that way then rushing in without any idea of what they are truly capable of. Last year, with a very talented core group of players, the Shamrocks finished 9-5-2 and fell in the district final to a very talented Novi Wildcats squad.

This year's team may not have the same group of all-stars, but they have an intangible that makes them dangerous to any team they face.

"We are a hard-working team and (we have) a great chemistry that has been there since day one," Nora noted.

The goal this year? As always, compete for the



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Novi Wildcat receiver Jonni Ivy looks for a pass into his hands during an Aug. 15 practice at Novi High. Novi's prep work for its first game of the season — against Chelsea High at Eastern Michigan University tomorrow.

FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1

three interceptions.

"The Kempa kid has really matured. He really looks more calm and sure of himself," Pennycuff said. "Ince got in the weight room and came in to camp bigger and stronger."

Whoever the quarterback is, they will have a much deeper group of wide receiver options despite just two of eight receivers returning. Novi has 27 receivers listed on its roster.

Senior Michael Jocz (team highs of nine catches, 251 yards) and junior Lucas Buck (two catches, 45 yards) both return, but Buck will dedicate himself as a running back while seniors Derek Cingel, Giddiani Albuera, Alejandro Albuera, Logan Regnier and juniors Blake Boron and Robbie Deighton line up as the primary receivers.

"(Cingel) is just an all-around good athlete, good kid. (Regnier) is a good athlete," Pennycuff said. "(Boron) is catching everything. He may not be the biggest or fastest kid, but he sticks real well to his routes. We're going to be blessed where we can keep people fresh and not take a drop at that spot."

"We have a lot of wide receivers and we're going to try to change things up a bit. We're still going to have to run the ball."

Joining Buck (165 yards on 33 attempts in 2010) at running back will be senior Zach Masserant (team high 472 yards on 67 attempts) and third-year junior quarterback Matt Forchre.

"I'm probably more pleased with his effort and attitude," Pennycuff said of Buck. "We've got some kids that can compete."

The Wildcats will have their top line-backer returning, as senior Alex King brings his team-high 91 tackles (27 solo, eight for losses) is back. Cingel (39 tackles, 15 solo, 7.5 for losses) and junior Jun Mencer (13 tackles, three sacks in five games) also return

VOLLEY

Continued from page B1

squads. Parsley and her husband, Brandon, were first-year assistants with Novi last season.

"Even with seven seniors this year, our biggest challenge will be replacing the experience we had at key positions last year, especially the setting position," Parsley said. "Laura Subject was the starting setter on varsity for the last two seasons and that type of experience is extremely difficult to replace. We will really be counting on our senior attackers and defensive players to shoulder the load and lead the team at least for the early portion of the season while our setters get up to speed and comfortable running the offense."

The two setters looking to fill Subject's shoes are senior Anna Lu and sophomore Emily Robb. "(Robb) will be counted on heavily to contribute as a setter to this year's varsity team," Parsley said. "She has all the tools and the skills for the position and just needs the experience at the varsity level."

Despite the hole up front, several pieces of the Wildcats' squad needs the experience at the varsity level.

Senior outside hitter

Katie Enright will lead the pack.

"She was second on the team in kills last year and was amongst the leaders in several other categories," Parsley said of the third-year varsity student-athlete. "She has worked really hard on both her defense and offense."

Returning alongside Enright are senior middle hitters Aly Ryan and Victoria Rose, who were instrumental in the Wildcats' playoff run. Ryan led the team in blocks last season.

Senior Marzanie will anchor the defense as the primary libero this season with help from junior defensive specialist Carrie Subject.

A returning group of outside hitters that includes senior Lesley Harrington, junior Kacey Sheldon and sophomore Isabelle Glancy will also factor into the team's depth.

"This season's team is a great group of girls who have set some very lofty goals for themselves," Parsley said. "They're focused on those goals and are committed to do everything in their power to achieve them. After last season's success, they know they are playing with targets on their backs, but they are willing and ready to accept the challenges ahead of them."

In addition to Robb, several other Wildcats are expected to challenge for playing time.

Some of these include sophomore Brooke Laney (middle hitter), Kati Timar (defensive specialist/outside hitter) and Emma Rinck (right-side hitter), but none will bring the emotion to the bench as much as senior Hannah Mouch. She played on the freshman and junior varsity teams before being cut from varsity as a junior.

"She dedicated an entire year to doing everything possible to be able to make the varsity team as a senior this season," Parsley said. "She played club, attended camps, attend-

ed every off-season and pre-season workout and this season earned her spot on the team. She is a great kid and is well respected by all of her teammates for what she has done. She will bring a work ethic, passion and overall positive attitude to this year's squad."

Parsley said Novi and Livonia Stevens are the early frontrunners in the KLA Central Division, but White Lake, Livonia Church Hill and Canton each return strong teams to association action.

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

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TENNIS

Continued from page B1

Along with Cho, Chang, Kovacsinski and Thompson, sophomore Shashank Chitta is poised to move up from junior varsity and potentially compete in the lower-level doubles matches.

"He really worked on his game in the off-season," Hanson said of Chitta. "With Chang injured, Cho and Chitta have teamed in practice, as has Kovacsinski and Thompson."

Also fighting for a position are sophomore

Kevin Xu and seniors Matt Pilat and Vedant Ram, all who had some varsity experience last year.

Fanson said 76 student-athletes tried out for the varsity and junior varsity teams, but he'll need the best of them to again compete with a strong Northville program that adds highly ranked junior Tyler Gardiner to its lineup.

"He could be the best player in the state. It'll make them that much stronger," Hanson said. "I think they have most of their singles coming back. I think they lost

some doubles."

The Wildcats will use the Mustangs and several other tough schools on their schedule as a tune up for the state meet.

"We've got a very competitive schedule again," Hanson said. "We have a good team on paper, but that's only on paper. We have to go out there on the court and win the matches. You've got to play them one match at a time and let the chips fall as they may."

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

GOLF

Continued from page B1

Tally, junior Allie Krick and sophomore Hannah Wagenberg will be counted on to improve

and keep the Wildcats competitive. Only Kroomen, Cojel, Tally and Krick have varsity experience.

"Healy is a captain and will be key to leadership and pushing herself and others to improve," Harris said. "Allie Krick and Hannah Wagenberg will

need to step up into one of the vacant starting positions."

With five new freshmen and a new senior, Harris expects a lot of competition for the final spots in competition.

"JV players from last year and the freshman will be battling it out for some open positions and some tournament play to develop," Harris said. "(We have a) very talented freshman class that could have an impact this year, but for sure next year."

After splitting the sea-

son series with Northville, both teams finished 9-1 in the Central Division, but Novi won the conference tournament. The Wildcats also edged out the Mustangs at the state meet by 12 strokes, 734-746, to push Northville to 10th place.

Plymouth (11th, 757 strokes), Brighton (12th, 759 strokes) and Milford (13th, 760 strokes) also represented the KLA at the Division I meet.

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

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