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CLASSIFIED, SECTION B

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FOOD, A17

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Fair to feature three bands

Bright House Networks is officially the presenting sponsor of The Great Lakes State Fair which will be held at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi Aug. 31 through Sept. 3. Three Americana-style acts have been booked for the main stage from 7-11 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

Led by front woman Amanda Bailey, Annabelle Road will start the fair off with their sound of Carrie Underwood meets Johnny Cash by way of Lynyrd Skynyrd.

The following night will feature the winner of 33 Detroit Music Awards, singer/songwriter Jill Jack and her band. Jill began her professional career singing backup with well known Detroit country and rock names The Forbes Brothers and Stewart Francke. By the late 90s she was writing constantly, fronting her own band and beginning to open for what would become a long list of prominent touring acts — Bob Seger, Emmylou Harris, Shawn Colvin, Patty Griffin, Dan Fogelberg, Marshall Crenshaw, Chris Isaak, and Loretta Lynn.

Sunday evening, David Shelby will perform songs that reflect his love for Nashville, the history of country music, and his gritty "Rock On!" sensibilities are pure Detroit.

For more information, visit www.greatlakesstatefair.org.

NOVI NEWS

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PRIMARY ELECTION 2012

Road millage passes

Increase will generate \$2.1 million in additional funds

By Cal Stone
Community Editor

Novi voters approved an increase in road millage funds by nearly 8 percent in Tuesday's primary with yes votes outnumbering no votes in 15 of the city's 21 precincts. "It's a big deal," City Manager Clay Pearson said. "We need the additional resources and flexibility."

It was late in the evening when Pearson heard the results at home — 4,187 yes to 3,576 no.

"That's a pretty good margin for something like this," he said. "It seemed pretty comfortable. You never know with these things, but I

Please see **ROADS, A12**

INSIDE:

• See how Novi voted in all the races, A15

• Novi joins in the DIA millage approval, A15



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Congressional hopeful Nancy Cassis greets a former student — Denis Berry — at her Tuesday night election headquarters at Central Park Estates as they await word of Cassis' Republican write-in campaign against Kerry Bentivolio for the 11th Congressional District.

Bentivolio wins GOP vote over Cassis

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Kerry Bentivolio handily won the 11th Congressional District Republican race, successfully fending off a spirited write-in campaign by former state Sen. Nancy Cassis of Novi.

Syed Taj defeated William Roberts for the Democratic nomination.

Bentivolio greeted supporters Tuesday night who cheered "Kerry, Kerry, Kerry" at the Novi Sheraton.



Bentivolio

"Together we won for the grass-roots and showing that principles matter," he said.

Bentivolio congratulated Cassis for her campaign, and asked Cassis for her support and stand for conservative values and liberties.

Please see **BENTIVOLIO, A15**

Caparo closing affects 270 workers

By Cal Stone
Community Editor

Two hundred seventy employees will be without jobs when Caparo Vehicle Components permanently closes both of its Novi facilities by the end of this month.

The company was in the process of finalizing the terms for sale of the business that it "reasonably believed would have allowed the company to continue operations," according to a letter sent Aug. 1 by Michael Dustmann, COO of Caparo in North America, to Stephanie Beckhorn, manager, state of Michigan's Workforce Investment Act.

"Unfortunately," Dustmann wrote, "the buyer is unexpectedly unwilling to proceed with the sale due to the lack of commitment by customers."

He added that this has caused Caparo's customers to exercise their right to resource orders and move tooling, beginning immediately.

The two Novi facilities are located on the north side of Grand River, west of Novi Road, and assessed

Please see **CAPARO, A6**

Novi administrators: School rankings unfair

Seven of eight labeled 'Focus Schools'

By Cal Stone
Community Editor

Comparing MEAP scores and Michigan Merit Exam results with other districts in Oakland County, Novi is achieving at a very high level — in fact, in the top five of all subject areas at all grade levels.

The state's ranking on achievement shows all Novi's schools in the top third of more than 3,000 schools. Deerfield Elementary is in the 99 percentile and Novi Woods is at 98 percent.

But one wouldn't know it based on new top-to-bottom rankings released Aug. 2 by the Michigan Department of Education under



"It's frustrating. The state is approaching us as Big Brother, but the reality is they don't know why we have these gaps and the unique characteristics of Novi."

STEVE MATTHEWS
Novi schools superintendent

a new accountability measurement.

The state received a waiver of the requirement of the federal No Child Left Behind Act — which aimed for having 100 percent of students at an achieving level by 2014 — and now uses a new measure that identifies the

gap between the top 30 percent and bottom 30 percent of students.

The 10 percent with the largest gaps are identified as Focus Schools, and seven of Novi's eight schools have been labeled as such.

"It means we have a whole

EDITORIAL

Be sure to see the Opinion page inside for the Novi News view on the state's top-to-bottom school rankings.

lot of high-achieving students, so the state is going to spend resources to help close the gaps," said Steve Matthews, Novi's superintendent. "We think it's wrong. It's not a good way to measure success."

The list of 358 Focus Schools includes ones from high-achieving districts, like Bloomfield Hills, Grosse Pointe and Troy, that wouldn't normally be expected to have low-achieving students.

Please see **RANKINGS, A12**

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The Blue Fin Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar will be moving into the former Gus O'Connor's locale on Main Street in downtown Novi.

Japanese restaurant coming to former Gus O'Connor's Blue Fin expected to open early next year

By Cal Stone
Community Editor

It's been vacant for more than a year, but the site of the former Gus O'Connor's Irish pub in downtown Novi is now being converted into a Japanese steakhouse.

Jim Oegama, president of Luna Entertainment, owner of the building on Main Street, confirmed that Eddie Meng has signed a lease to operate Blue Fin Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Bar.

Meng and his partner have also owned and operated for five years a Blue Fin in Howell at 4313 E. Grand River Avenue.

"We were looking to expand in so many different areas — Lansing, Ann Arbor, Novi, Farmington

Hills," Meng said, adding that they settled on Novi because "it's a nice area. There are so many Japanese Americans and Asians around there, and the area could handle another upscale seafood restaurant."

He said the Novi location is more than 8,000 square feet, while Howell's is 3,200. The larger space will allow them to add more options for diners.

"We're going to do more types of seafood — of course, some sushi, and more steaks and a raw bar," Meng said.

The Howell resident is originally from China and says he grew up in the restaurant businesses his father owned. He came to the United States, went to school and worked as a sous chef for 14 years.

He's targeting early next year to spring for the Novi opening,

and says they'll begin interviewing potential employees about three weeks prior. Meng says they'll employ 50 to 60 and, if all goes well, they'll be looking at a third location.

Gus O'Connor's had an eight-year run in Novi until owner Ed Smith and his company that ran the pub, Irish Beer Works, ran into financial troubles. It officially closed its doors Memorial Day weekend last year, and Smith filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy a week later.

At the time, Oegama said, "We believe it's a great corner in Novi, and we are excited about getting that space leased out to another tenant."

To learn more about that new tenant, visit www.bluefinsteakhouse.com.

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The Novi Marching Band's horn section during band camp.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS SCARLETT



Novi High School senior Brenna Cameron, center drum major and mellophone soloist for the marching band show.

Heels Over Head

Novi High gears for competition season at band camp

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

This year's competition performance for the Novi High School Marching Band, which was practiced all last week at band camp, is about a relationship break-up. The over 160 students in the band have been working hard to bring emotions ranging from anger, sadness to reconciliation to life through visuals and music.

The role of the male in the break-up will be bolstered by the horns and drums while the female role will come to life through the color guard. Their first big showing of the performance will be at this year's Fanfare, which is a Michigan Competing Band Association competition scheduled to be hosted in Novi.



The Novi High School Marching Band practices their "Heels Over Head" performance inside during band camp.

At camp is where it all starts for the 9-12 graders going into a year of competition and performances.

Director Mark Hourigan said the camp is time for the group to get as much of the performance learned as they can.

"It's called 'Heels Over Head' which is a play on words," Hourigan said of the break-up theme. "We

will be exploring the emotions that come with that through the music and visuals. It should be really cool once we get it all down."

Junior tuba player Josh Scarlett said camp is a time "to hone your skills" and get in condition for the season. But it's also about fun and learning.

"This is hard work. When I first came here

I was intimidated," Josh said of camp. "But it's great to be with friends and learn about working together as a marching band."

Senior Brenna Cameron, center drum major and mellophone soloist for the show, agreed and said the camps and performances she has done throughout high school have enriched her so much.

"Learning the performance bit by bit and then



Novi High's drumline, including Garrett Flowers, left, found an interesting way to wrap up and keep out the heat as they practiced on Aug. 3 at the start of the marching band's summer camp.

making it come together as a team - that's an amazing feeling," Brenna said at camp looking on while her band mates began moving in sync during a practice.

"To see it all come together, go to the FANFARE event. Novi will host on

Sept. 22 and it's expected to draw high school marching bands from all over the metro Detroit area to compete for awards and placement. This year's may be the largest in four years with 18 bands already committed.



The Oakland County Sheriff's Department is looking for help in identifying these suspects in an ATM skimming scheme in Oakland, Wayne and Livingston counties by calling (248) 858-4950 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-Speak Up.

ATM cash skimming hits local banks

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department is looking for help in identifying five suspects in an ATM skimming scheme that has scammed \$500,000 from local banks and credit unions.

According to Oakland County Sheriff Lt. Clay

Jansson, the perpetrators have committed the skimming crime in 12 Oakland communities and in Wayne and Livingston counties. Novi, Commerce Township, West Bloomfield Township, Livonia, Ferndale, Westland, and Wixom have all been impacted.

Jansson said the first case reported was on

June 28. The suspects are attaching an external technological device that can help them read PIN codes and duplicate ATM cards. The device is difficult to notice on a machine and is able to both capture core information from its magnetic strip and visually read the PIN being punched in.

He said because of this

crime's capability it's important that individuals keep track of their accounts, just in case. The suspects have taken out amounts up to as high as \$500, but usually stick to smaller withdrawals, Jansson said.

The U.S. Secret Service is also working with local agencies on the case. But, because they have surveil-

lance photographs, Jansson said they are looking to the public for help. He said this is the first time he has dealt with such a crime.

"The best way we'll be able to solve this is if someone can help us name or identify a suspect," Jansson said.

The police are looking for identification (names) on the suspects and the

vehicle involved, which is reported as a 2010 Blue Ford Fusion. Those with any information can contact the Oakland County Sheriff's Office at (248) 858-4950 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-Speak Up. Reward money is available.

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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Malicious property destruction

Seven incidents of property destruction were reported to the Novi police during the first week or so of August.

Two cases occurred on Hollydale Street on Aug. 2-3 with both having a vehicle damaged.

One victim reported to police that his 1999 Ford vehicle was parked at his residence and the next morning the windshield was cracked. It appeared as if it may have been done by a punch-type of tool.

The second Hollydale incident happened to a Novi woman's car while visiting a friend's home and stayed overnight.

Upon returning to it the next day she found her tires deflated and later found out they were punctured.

MDOP Part 2

Park Ridge Road was the scene of two property destruction cases. On Aug. 2-3 a Novi woman also had her car tires punctured and damaged causing them to deflate.

The second incident on the road had a Novi man's 1999 GMC Van damaged by having the tires flattened by an unknown suspect.

Sugar in the gas tank

A Novi woman found her gas tank and brake line had been damaged after having checked at Marty Feldman Chevrolet.

On Aug. 6 the woman had her vehicle taken into the dealership because it would not take gasoline. A dealership service person found a blue cloth with sugar inside the gas tank as well as the ABS brake line cut in two.

There are no suspects at this time.

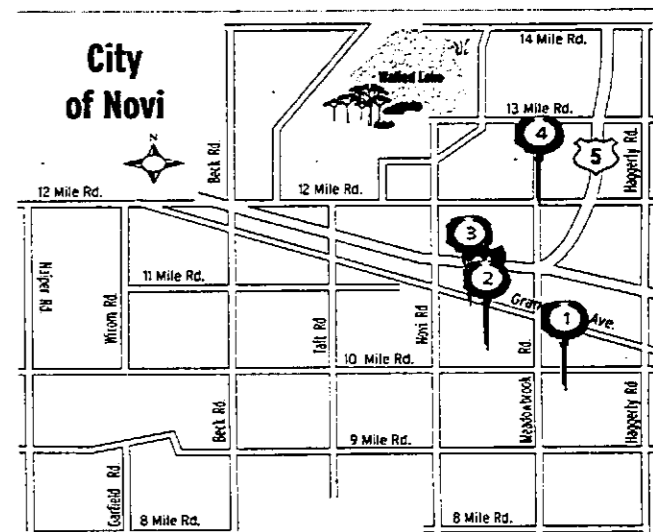
Drunk driving

A 27-year-old driver was arrested for drunken driving after being stopped for driving with no headlights on just before 3 a.m.

The man was stopped at 12 Mile and Meadowbrook roads after being spotted by Novi police. Upon making contact with the driver the police reported smelling intoxicants inside the vehicle.

The driver said he had been drinking at a wedding held at the Crown Plaza Hotel. The police then had the man perform field sobriety test, which he had trouble with and led to a preliminary breathalyzer test that registered a blood-alcohol content of .112 percent.

Compiled by staff writer Lonnie Huhman



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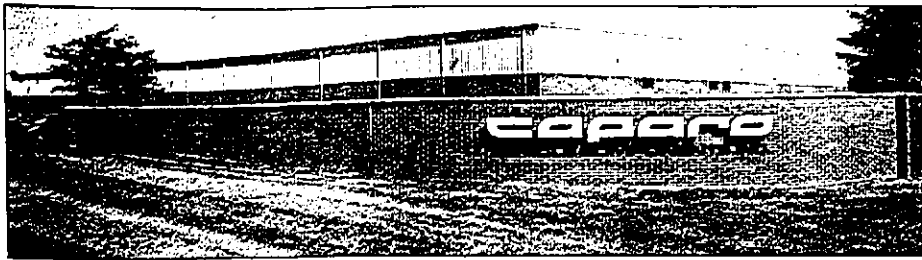
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Caparo Vehicle Components will soon be closing its facilities on Grand River Avenue in Novi.

CAPARO

Continued from page A1

this year for \$1,069,750 and \$1,829,100. Aug. 17 is anticipated to be the last day of employment for affected employees, who are non-union with no "bumping" rights.

"Caparo was one of the last heavy industrial plants to close in our area. They were good corporate citizens and we are sorry to see this happen to the company and 270 employees that will need new jobs," said Ara Topouzian, Novi's economic development director. "The good news is that Caparo is very active in assisting all of their workforce in seeking new employment. In an economy that is in need of a technical workforce, employees from Caparo are much in demand and will hopefully find employment sooner than later."

Caparo Vehicle Components, Inc., produces metal stampings, welded assemblies and e-coated components for OEMs and major Tier-1 suppliers. The operations have evolved from a supplier of body-in-white and chassis components to a recognized supplier of safety-critical components for the occupant safety market where zero defects are a must.

Headquarters in Novi, the business has two manufacturing locations: Novi, with 200,000 square feet, and San Luis Potosi, Mexico, with 40,000

square feet.

Caparo was founded in 1968 by British industrialist Lord Paul of Marylebone. The company's business interests are predominantly in steel, engineered and vehicular products. Caparo's wider activities encompass materials testing services, hotels, film distribution and private equity investment. Headquartered in London, Caparo's operations are located at more than 50 sites in the Great Britain, North America, India and Spain. Caparo Vehicle Components was formed Nov. 1 2007, when Caparo acquired for about \$15 million Novi-based Voestalpine Polynorm, a steel-stamping company with annual sales of about \$60 million. It was owned by Linz, Austria-based Voestalpine AG. Crain's Detroit Business noted the transaction in a "Best Deal, \$25 million and under" story in March 2008.

"One of the primary reasons we were interested was we saw this as an opportunity to grow Caparo in North America," Dustmann told Crain's. "And we think, based on the reaction we've received from current customers and potential customers, that we will be very successful in the long term."

A few years ago, Caparo Vehicle Components received a \$1 million MEGA Grant via the Michigan Economic Development Corp., specifically for employ-

THOSE AFFECTED

Here is the breakdown of employees who will lose their jobs when Caparo Vehicle Components shuts down its Novi operations later this month, according to paperwork filed with the state of Michigan Workforce Investment Act. **Hourly permanent employees:** Press operators 27 General labor 51 Quality inspectors 9 Maintenance 3 Tool Room 13 Hilo drivers 6 Shipping/Receiving 12 Team leaders 12 Weld technicians 4 SUB TOTAL 137 **Salaried permanent employees:** Operations 14 SG&A 11 Clerical 3 SUB TOTAL 28 **Hourly temporary employees:** General labor 96 Clerical 6 Team Leaders 3 SUB TOTAL 105 **TOTAL 270**

ment retention in Michigan. However, Topouzian does not believe the company "turned it on" based on its job growth, "so it was never used." He added that no Novi dollars were spent on that, either.

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Daly resigns from Novi Chamber of Commerce
Helped in merger of two organizations

By Cal Stone
Community Editor

Linda Daly resigned as executive director of the Novi Chamber of Commerce, effective Aug. 3.



Daly was hired five years ago as a marketing director during the merger of the Novi Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce, and then became the executive director. She was "instrumental in the transition" of the chambers merging, said Board of Directors chairman Jeff Wilk, of Carrabba's Italian Grill in Novi. He notified the chamber's membership of the resignation via an

email last Friday. "Her passion for helping the business community will be missed," said Wilk. "We are sorry to lose Linda, but excited for her future employment endeavors."

Daly will continue in Novi, working for Paradise Park, a family entertainment complex celebrating its seventh year on Grand River Avenue. While the board searches for a new executive director, Sheryl Romzek, events manager, has agreed to step into the role. She has been with the chamber for four years.

Wilk said the board was to meet today to discuss specifically how their search for Daly's replacement will progress. The original Novi chamber, established in 1967 and now boasting 542 members, is gearing up for the annual golf outing fundraiser Aug. 15.

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Coach Don Riddell (far right) and Novi Rotary President Mark Whitfield (far left) with two Novi Rotarians who served as district governors in past years — Mav Sanghvi (second from left) and Vic Cassis (second from right).

Novi Rotary meets new 'coach', Don Riddell

Every year (July 1-June 30) Rotary is rejuvenated with all new volunteer officers and directors from top to bottom - at Rotary International level with a new international president, at district level with a new district governor, and at club level with a new president.

This is done for several reasons, but one important reason is that these volunteer positions require a great deal of time commitment from the individual vol-

unteers and their significant others, and after a year of service many are ready for a break. Another reason is that the new officers and directors begin their years with new enthusiasm and new ideas, which helps to keep Rotary dynamic and effective service organization.

On Aug. 2, the new governor for District 6380 (which includes 52 clubs in Michigan and Ontario), Don Riddell, visited Novi Rotary to introduce himself and explain

his ideas and expectations for his year as Governor. Riddell prefers the title of 'coach' to governor, and explained how all Rotarians in all clubs are important playmakers for the Rotary International Team, and why he believes that each Rotarian can and should seek to get involved in the big plays that can win the game for the Rotarians' communities and for the ultimate game of world peace. Riddell also reminded Rotarians that while Rotary International has been fighting hard to win the game of polio eradication for the world, including raising of billions of dollars and tremendous amounts of hands-on involvement, they now stand in the position of fourth-and-goal, the biggest play, and need to finish the game successfully.

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NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT TUP 12-022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the applicant for PowerVac of Michigan is requesting a Temporary Special Land Use Permit at 44370 Grand River Ave. parcel 5022-15-326-014. The applicant is requesting approval to use the above parcel for a temporary office location between August 28, 2012 and August 28, 2013 in accordance with Section 5004 of the Novi Code of Ordinances.

A public hearing can be requested by any property owner of a structure located within 300 feet of the boundary of the property being considered for a temporary special land use permit.

This request will be considered at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to Angie Pawlowski and must be received prior to August 27, 2012.

Angie Pawlowski (248) 347-0415

Publish: August 9, 2012

Mike is a 29-year-old young professional. He says he's not as smart as his smartphone - yet.

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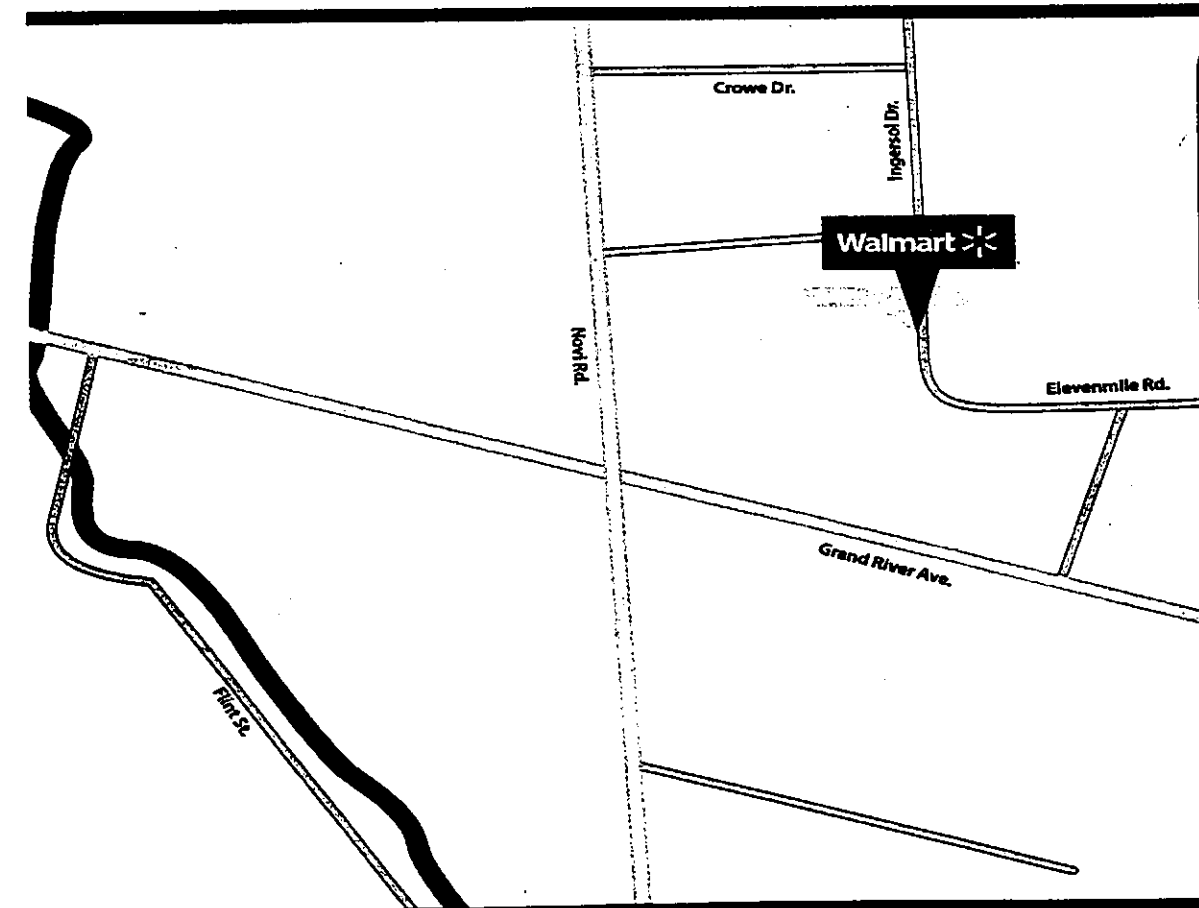
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North Star Reach

Bloomfield Hills resident Sheri Mark is the board president of North Star Reach, a 105-acre camp that will be open year-round in Pinckney and include a state-of-the-art medical center, dining hall and cabins. North Star Reach is a provisional member of the SeriousFun Children's Network which has camps for children with serious illnesses all over the world and was founded by actor Paul Newman in 1988. The best part of North Star Reach is that it's going to be free for the kids attending—with your help. The camp is slated to open in 2014. Until that time, Mark, her husband, Dr. Abe Slaim; her board members, friends, family and generous readers have a lot of fundraising to do. Mark first enlisted her mother, Florine Mark, a Farmington Hills resident and CEO of Weight Watchers Group, to host an introductory party at her home. Simultaneously, the Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation gave a \$5 million lead gift to the North Star Reach \$25.2 million capital campaign, giving it a great head start. North Star Reach also won \$30,000 in the Art Van Charity Challenge. Pictured (l to r) are North Star Reach Board president Sheri Mark of Bloomfield Hills and Novi resident Mary Golota.



JULIE YOLLES

WEDDING

Howard & Schwein

Erica Ann Howard and Jonathan Samuel Schwein were married May 26, 2012, at St. Thomas Aquinas in East Lansing with Father Anthony Strouse officiating. The bride is the daughter of James and Tami Howard, of Novi. She attended Michigan State University and is a registered clinical dietician at Lakeland Community Hospital. Her attendants included Allison Howard, Jordan Howard, Brittany Anderson, Sarah Friesema, Claire Moore, and Kaitlyn Moser (flower girl). The groom is the son of Terri and Dave Anderson, of Danville, Mich., and Joe and Darlene DiGiovanni, of Dewitt, Mich. He is a veteran of the Army National Guard. He is currently studying respiratory therapy. His attendants included Joe DiGiovanni, Jr., Nick DiGiovanni, Eric Cupp, James Lagrou, and Chris Rutan. Ushers were Alex Hook and Pat Mussell. A reception was held at Hawk Hollow Golf Course, Bath, Mich.. The couple honeymooned in Key West and Comzumel and will reside in Niles, Mich.



Jonathan Schwein and Erica Howard

Family Self Defense Center continues to take top honors nationally

Family Self Defense Center, in partnership with the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, has received National Recognition for the fourth consecutive year as one of the top Isshinryu Karate programs in the country. The school has been crowned the 2012 Most Supportive Dojo of the Year by the Isshinryu Hall of Fame Board of Masters. Students and coaches recently returned from the National Isshinryu Hall of Fame Awards and Tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn., where the students broke all previous school records. The Tournament included Isshinryu stylists from all over the world each competing in kata, weapons and kumite divisions. A record 62 trophies were earned by the FSDC competitors, with 12 National Champions crowned.



Family Self Defense Center students and coaches recently returned from the National Isshinryu Hall of Fame Awards and Tournament in Chattanooga, Tenn., where the students broke all previous school records.

National Number One Female Karate Student in the Country ages 13-17: Lizzy Arnold. **National Number One Jr. Female Competitor in the Country:** Tanaz Naterwala. **Top Five Isshinryu Teaching Dojos in the Country:** Family Self Defense Center for the seventh consecutive year. **Top Five in the Country:** Chris Szalap, female instructors; Randy Fancher, male instructors; Trina Frick, Krishna Kiru and Tanaz Naterwala, female karate students; Andrew Swanson, Zach Verhelle, James Takeshita and Andrew Pospeshil, male karate students; Shaelyn Carroll, Jr., female competitor; Mitchel Huang, Soorya Ramappan and Rohun Savanur, Jr., male competitors; The Swanson Family and Shankar Kiru, contribution to Isshinryu. The students of FSDC have had a banner 2012 tournament season thus far, earning 300 trophies

Matas, Devon DeCaire (two awards), Joshua Huang, Justin Frick, Mitchel Huang (two awards), Shaelyn Carroll (two awards), Shashank Swaminathan, and Tom Pospeshil. **Fourth Place Awards:** Abby O'Meara, Alex Pospeshil, Anthony DeFeo, Benjamin Matas, Caleb Desmier, Joshua Huang (two awards), Justin Frick (two awards), Kathy O'Meara, Lizzy Arnold, Ryan T'Giros, Shankar Kiru (three awards), Soorya Ramappan (two awards), and Yogesh Mohanraj. **Medal Recipients:** Abhay Vora, Andrew Swanson, Anjali Singh, James Takeshita, Ram Kiru and Savanna Frick.

in four tournaments. Family Self Defense Center offers classes in Isshinryu karate and

samurai sport sword throughout the year through Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Ser-

VICES. More information can be found by visiting karatebyfsc.com, or cityofnovi.org.



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Grand Champion-ship Participants: Josh O'Meara and Krishna Kiru both in kata
Second Place Awards: Caleb and Katelyn (two awards) Desmier, Krishna Kiru, Kritika Swaminathan (2 awards), Mark and Ryan Swanson (both two awards), Mitchell Huang, Noah D'Arcy, Shaelyn Carroll, Tanaz Naterwala (two awards), and Trina Frick (two awards).
Third Place Awards: Abby O'Meara, Alex Pospeshil, Anthony DeFeo, Benjamin

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Library crafts

Katie Mc-Master works on a colorful glow-in-the-dark door hanger during a July 12 crafts session at the Novi Public Library on Ten Mile Rd. The library continues to host many fun sessions for young readers through the summer to get them in the library and near its volumes of books.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Works from three local artists on display in the Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery

The City of Novi is hosting artwork by Kathleen Boettcher, Patricia Dombbecki and Peter Lichomski in the Civic Center Atrium Gallery through Sept. 20.

Boettcher is a former art teacher who fell in love with creating art at a very young age. She puts her experience to use by creating life-like scenes using pastels and various types of paint. Her future goals include doing some larger scale pieces and abstraction. Kathleen is actively involved in many art groups and societies throughout Metro Detroit.

Dombbecki is a well accomplished artist who uses mixed media and collage to create her artwork. Her style allows for plenty of creativity while offering the appropriate amount of control over the composition in her pieces. Her hands-on approach to art is one that she also carries with her throughout life. This allows her to enjoy the experience and challenge of working with materials while being physically active.

Lichomski was born in Warsaw, Poland and focuses primarily on watercolor painting. He has won numerous awards for his artwork. When creating pieces, Lichomski lets the paint move freely on the paper



A mixed media piece by Patricia Dombbecki.

to create the sky, sea, and large surfaces. Much of the remainder of the piece is about silhouettes with shadowing being the finishing touch to his watercolor pieces.

Upcoming exhibits in the Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery include pieces from Colored Pencil Society in October and ArtsNovi in November. Other opportunities for viewing public art displays in Novi include

sculptures at Fuerst Park and multiple installations at the Novi Public Library. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is currently seeking artists for Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery shows in 2013. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 30. Please contact Stephanie Schuetzler at sschuetzler@cityofnovi.org to request an application form.

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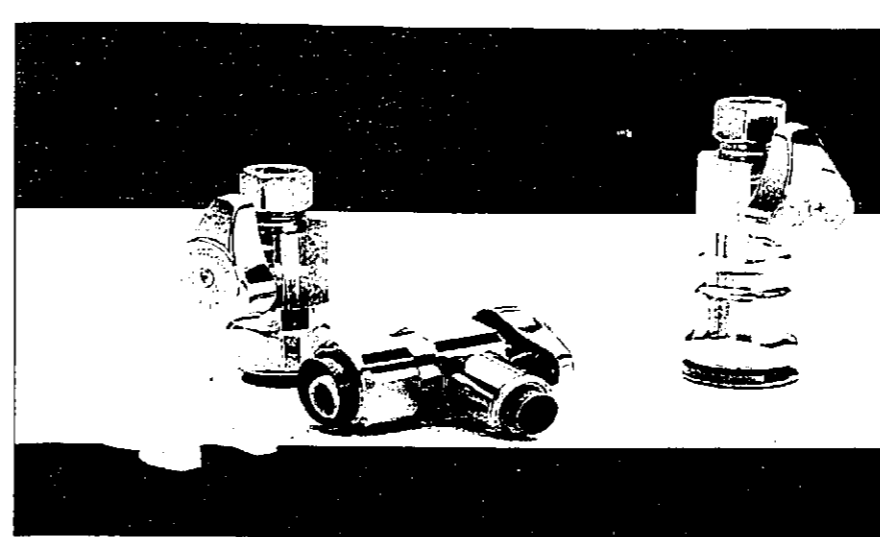
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BUSINESS



BrassCraft's push connect technology family of products.

BrassCraft expands push connect products

BrassCraft Manufacturing, a manufacturer of premium quality plumbing supplies for over 65 years and with a Novi facility, has added two new water stops to its push connect technology family of products.

Complementing its original push connect water stop, BrassCraft Manufacturing is expanding its push connect technology line to include a newly designed, more compact push connect stop. Also available this August, push connect x push connect — a versatile, convenient water stop featuring push connect technology not only on the inlet side of the stop but on the outlet side as well. This allows ease of installation for the tubing on the inlet side and the water connector on the outlet side.

All three watertight options are designed, machined and assembled in the USA, available in both straight and angle configurations, and in compliance with the new federal no-lead legislation effective January 4, 2014. The advantage of the push connect technology is that no tools are required for installation and can be installed on three types of tubing. The result is an "installation ready" water stop that's compatible with copper, PEX and CPVC, 100-percent leak tested and IAP-MO and CSA certified. An enhanced benefit of BrassCraft technology is the pre-inserted tube stiffener that self-aligns

NOVI NEWSMAKERS

Young joins Habitat board

Sommers Schwartz announced that Jesse Young was elected to a three-year term with the Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County Board of Directors.

Young is a licensed builder and has regularly volunteered his time to Habitat as a site supervisor since 2010. Young is an associate with the firm in its Business Litigation Department.

Hills; Vice President of Education Cory Lee, of Novi; Vice President of Membership Walt Hickok, of Highland; Vice President of Public Relations Linda Hagan, of Novi; Secretary Estelle Caine, of Farmington Hills; Treasurer Mike Karol, of Novi; and Sergeant at Arms Moonseek Lee, of Northville.

Individuals interested in improving or practicing public speaking and leadership skills are invited to attend a meeting at the Toastmasters Club of Walsh College. Meetings are held the first and third Friday each month from 8-9 a.m., at the Walsh College Novi Campus, 41500 Gardenbrook Road (off of Meadowbrook Road, just north of Grand River Avenue), in Novi.

The Toastmasters Club at Walsh College provides a supportive and positive environment where members have the opportunity to develop their communication and leadership skills," said Zalubas.

At each Toastmasters meeting, members and guests enjoy practicing or listening to prepared speeches, Table Topics (impromptu speeches), and speech evaluations, in addition to practicing leadership skills.

"Table Topics are one of my favorite parts of the meeting," said Zalubas. "This is where guests and members volunteer to speak for one to two minutes. It helps you think and speak clearly on your feet."

The next Toastmasters meeting will be held at 8 a.m. Friday, Aug. 3, at the Walsh College Novi Campus.

For more information about the Toastmasters Club at Walsh College, contact Walt Hickok at whickok@aol.com.

Young is a licensed builder and has regularly volunteered his time to Habitat as a site supervisor since 2010. Young is an associate with the firm in its Business Litigation Department.

Toastmasters Club elects new officers

The Toastmasters Club at Walsh College recently elected its officers for 2012-2013: President Gene Zalubas, of Farmington

Michigan's unemployment rate rose in May and June, contributing to the falloff in retail sales performance in June, Hallan said.

The June Michigan Retail Index found that 50 percent of retailers increased sales over the same month last year, while 33 percent recorded declines and 17 percent saw no change. The results create a seasonally adjusted performance index of 85.6, down from 61.9 in May. A year ago June it was 52.1.

The index gauges the performance of the state's overall retail industry, based on monthly surveys conducted by MRA and the Federal Reserve.

NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

Retail sales and forecasts slip but remain positive

Michigan retail sales and forecasts stalled in June but continued to show improvement over last year, according to the Michigan Retail Index, a joint project of Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

"The performance of Michigan's retail industry slipped from May to June, catching up to a national trend that began two months earlier," said MRA President and CEO James P. Hallan. "However, we are still seeing year-to-year growth, a broader picture of where we are."

Looking forward, 58 percent of retailers expect sales during July-September to increase over the same period last year, while 17 percent project a decrease and 25 percent no change.

That puts the seasonally adjusted outlook index at 71.9, down from 77.5 in June. A year ago June it was 63.7.

For the important back-to-school sales period, 53 percent of retailers said they expect flat sales compared to last year, while 31 percent expect improved sales.

OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

- **Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in February offered by the Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For pre-registration and location specifics, visit oakgov.com/peds/calendar, or call (248) 858-0783.**
- **FastTrac GrowthVenture**
FastTrac GrowthVenture is an intensive, 10-week program designed for owners, CEOs and top management team members of small businesses with at least two years of operating experience, minimum of two employees, and annual revenue of between \$100,000-\$749,000. FastTrac GrowthVenture is normally \$700 per participant. Sponsor support allows us to offer a scholarship-reduced rate.
 Aug. 9-Oct. 11 (10 sessions), 6-9 p.m. Fee: \$140
- **Team SBA Financing Roundtable**
Before you apply for a business loan, we recommend that you attend the Financing Roundtable. This session is best suited to those with good credit, a solid business idea and money to invest in their business. The session will demystify small business financing. You'll learn how the lending process works and what is expected of you. You'll see how the Small Business Administration (SBA) can assist with our SBA Guaranteed Loan Program. (The SBA does not provide loan guarantees to real estate investment
- **Twitter for Business**
Create and launch your Twitter campaign, learn advanced strategies for reaching influencers and building a long-lasting online community and explore ways to take Twitter beyond social media marketing. Build a complete multi-channel, social media marketing strategy, integrate Twitter and traditional marketing channels to deliver a competitive advantage, establish a social media Twitter timeline, grow your follower base and engage participants. Learn how to advertise with Twitter-promoted tweets, ensure a reasonable rate of return on your social media investment and acquire the tools you need to deputize your employees for organization-wide Twitter engagement. Prerequisites for this class are Twitter for Business (Beginner and Intermediate.)
 Aug. 22, 6-9 p.m. Fee: \$40
- **Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan**
For small business owners who are developing their plan to success. Workshop participants discover the elements
- **Twitter for Business**
Create and launch your Twitter campaign, learn advanced strategies for reaching influencers and building a long-lasting online community and explore ways to take Twitter beyond social media marketing. Build a complete multi-channel, social media marketing strategy, integrate Twitter and traditional marketing channels to deliver a competitive advantage, establish a social media Twitter timeline, grow your follower base and engage participants. Learn how to advertise with Twitter-promoted tweets, ensure a reasonable rate of return on your social media investment and acquire the tools you need to deputize your employees for organization-wide Twitter engagement. Prerequisites for this class are Twitter for Business (Beginner and Intermediate.)
 Aug. 22, 6-9 p.m. Fee: \$40
- **Fundamentals of Starting a Business**
This seminar is for anyone thinking about going into business. Participants examine their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business.
 Aug. 9, 6-9 p.m. Fee: \$30
- **Twitter for Business**
Create and launch your Twitter campaign, learn advanced strategies for reaching influencers and building a long-lasting online community and explore ways to take Twitter beyond social media marketing. Build a complete multi-channel, social media marketing strategy, integrate Twitter and traditional marketing channels to deliver a competitive advantage, establish a social media Twitter timeline, grow your follower base and engage participants. Learn how to advertise with Twitter-promoted tweets, ensure a reasonable rate of return on your social media investment and acquire the tools you need to deputize your employees for organization-wide Twitter engagement. Prerequisites for this class are Twitter for Business (Beginner and Intermediate.)
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SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

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 fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

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

Attorneys 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 Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. 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.

www.ssdflghter.com

KNOW THE SCORE

CHECK OUT THE NUMBERS IN TODAY'S SPORTS SECTION



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Josh O'Meara may appear to have a cookie painfully rolling down his face but in fact he's taking part in the "Minute-to-Win-It"-style competition on July 17 at the Novi Public Library. This contest saw who could place a cookie on their forehead — and then without using their hands — get the treat into their mouth. Josh won this round and moved on to later competitions.



Lauren Fokken, 14, tries to thread a series of ziti pasta onto her spaghetti noodle during the July 17 "Minute-to-Win-It"-style competition at the Novi Library for kids. Fokken was the first of this round to complete the assignment and moved on to further competition.



Larry Rubel, 17, was the last person standing to keep all three of his balloons in the air simultaneously during the Novi Library July 17 competition.

PHOTOS AVAILABLE

These photos and others in photo galleries at hometownlife.com are available for purchase, contact Web Editor Larry Ruehlen at lruehlen@hometownlife.com.



Dylan O'Connor, 10, competes in the Novi Public Library's "Minute-To-Win-It" games on July 17. This contest involved seeing how to pick up and balance a total of two M&M's on straws — using a straw in the mouth.



Novi Public Library held a "Minute-to-Win-It"-style competition for teens on July 17.



Wake up to breakfast with blueberries

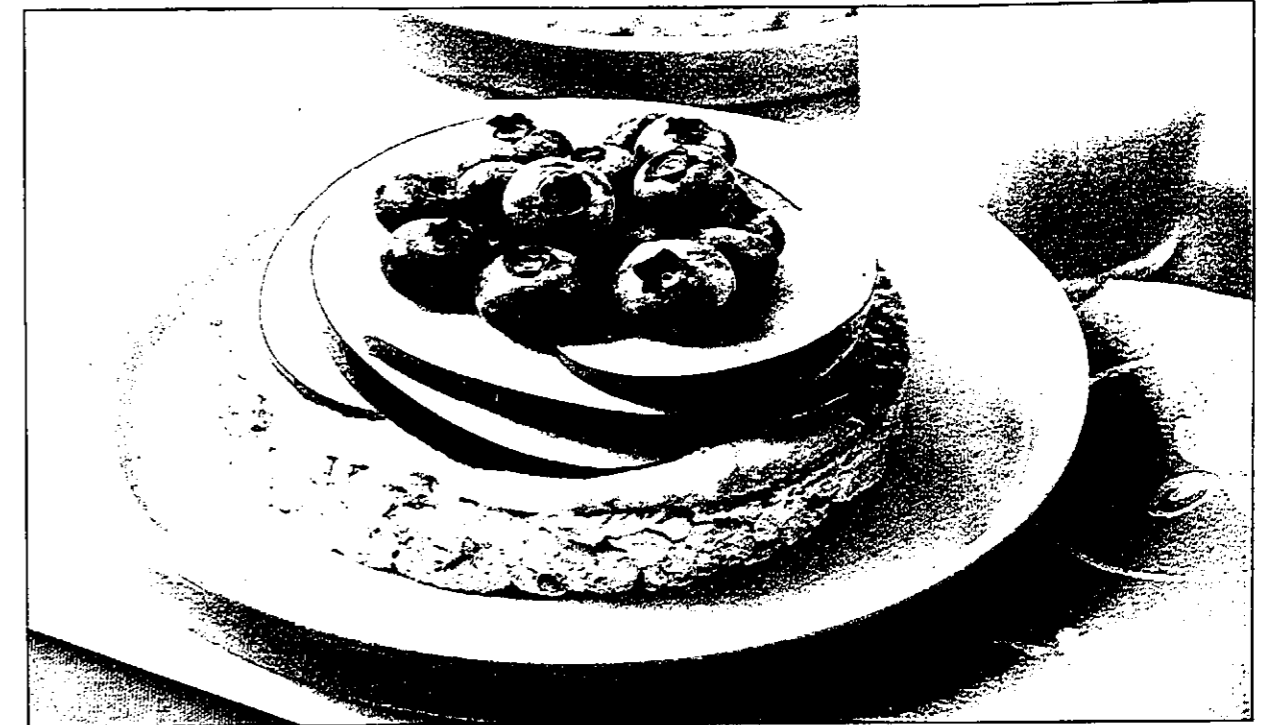
Say good morning to sunshine and blue skies. When there are blueberries in the fridge or freezer, breakfast is not only the most important meal of the day, it can be the most fun.

When breakfast is a rush, what's easier than a handful of blueberries? No pitting, peeling or chopping needed. Just a quick rinse and they're ready to go onto hot or cold cereal or stirred into yogurt.

On more leisurely mornings, blueberries add their color and flavor to stacks of homemade pancakes or waffles. Here's a tip: Stir up a topping in minutes by heating fresh or frozen blueberries in maple syrup.

The USDA's MyPlate recommends that adults 19-30 years eat 2 cups of fruit every day. Blueberries first thing in the morning help you get a head start on achieving that goal. A 1-cup serving of fresh or frozen blueberries has 80 calories and provides vitamin C, manganese and fiber.

Today, nutrition researchers are pursuing four tracks to better understand the role that blueberries may play in promoting good health — cardiovascular health, insulin response, brain health and cancer risk reduction. Learn more about blueberries and health research visit www.littlebluedynamos.com



Blueberry-Topped Rice Cakes

Yield: 4 portions

- ½ cup ricotta or cottage cheese
- 2 teaspoons apricot preserves
- 4 apple-cinnamon flavored rice cakes
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 cup thinly-sliced fresh fruit (such as apple, pear, nectarine or peach)

In a small bowl, stir together ricotta and preserves. Spoon an equal amount on each of the rice cakes almost to the edge. Arrange fruit slices in circles on top of the ricotta mixture. Top each with ¼ cup of the blueberries; serve immediately.

Per Portion: 149 calories, 5 g protein, 24 g carbohydrate, 4 g fat, 39 mg sodium, 16 mg cholesterol



Blueberry-stuffed French Toast

Yield: 4 to 6 portions

- Cooking spray
- 6 eggs
- 1 teaspoon grated orange peel
- ½ cup orange juice
- 3 tablespoons sugar, divide
- Pinch salt, optional
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries (thawed and drained, if frozen)
- 8 slices (1-½ inches thick) Italian bread
- ½ cup sliced almonds
- Blueberry Orange Sauce (recipe follows)

Preheat oven to 400°F. Spray a large baking sheet with cooking spray. In a medium bowl beat eggs, peel, juice, 2 tablespoons of the sugar and the salt until well blended. Pour into a 13- by 9- by 2-inch baking pan; set aside. In a small bowl combine blueberries and the remaining 1 tablespoon sugar; set aside. With the tip of a sharp knife, cut a 1-½-inch wide pocket in the side of each bread slice. Fill pockets with reserved blueberry mixture, dividing evenly. Place filled slices in egg mixture. Let stand, turning once, until egg mixture is absorbed, about 5 minutes on each side. Arrange bread on prepared baking sheet; sprinkle with almonds. Bake until golden brown, about 15 minutes, turning slices after 10 minutes. Serve with Blueberry Orange Sauce.

Blueberry Orange Sauce

Yield: 2 cups

- 3 tablespoons sugar
 - 1 tablespoon cornstarch
 - ¼ teaspoon salt, optional
 - ½ cup orange juice
 - 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
 - 1 cup orange sections (about 2 oranges)
- In a cup combine sugar, cornstarch and salt. Set aside. In a small saucepan bring orange juice and ½ cup water to a boil. Add blueberries and orange sections. Return to a boil. Cook until liquid is released from fruit, about 2 minutes. Stir in sugar mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, until sauce thickens, 1 to 2 minutes.

Blueberry Mini-Muffins

Yield: 24 mini-muffins

- 2 cups self-rising flour
 - ½ cup sugar
 - ½ cup milk
 - 1 large egg, lightly beaten
 - ½ cup butter, melted
 - 1½ cups fresh blueberries
- Preheat oven to 425°F. Lightly grease 24 (1-inch) mini-muffin pan cups. In a medium-sized bowl, combine flour and sugar. Make a well in the center; add milk, egg and butter. Stir gently until mixture begins to form a soft dough; fold in berries; spoon into mini-muffin cups, dividing evenly. Bake until tops are golden, 12 to 15 minutes. Serve warm.

Per muffin: 83 calories, 13 g carbohydrate, 2.6 g total fat, 1.5 g saturated fat

Blueberry Breakfast Bake

Yield: 9 portions

- 1 loaf (14 ounces) sliced, firm textured white bread, crusts removed, divided
- 2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries, divided
- 4 ounces light cream cheese (from an 8-ounce package), cut in ½-inch cubes

8 eggs, beaten
1½ cups lowfat milk
½ cup maple syrup
½ cup melted butter

Preheat oven to 350°F. Remove crusts from bread. Cut in 1-inch cubes (makes about 10 cups). Cut cream cheese in small cubes (makes about 1 cup). Grease a 9-by-9-by-2-inch baking dish. Place half of the bread cubes in the dish. Scatter cream cheese cubes and 1 cup of blueberries over the bread. Top with remaining bread cubes and blueberries. In a bowl, combine eggs, milk, maple syrup and butter. Carefully pour over bread mixture. Bake until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, about 1 hour, covering with aluminum foil if edges brown too much. To serve, cut in squares. Accompany with additional maple syrup, if desired.

Blueberry Pumpkin Bread

Serves 8

- 1 cup canned solid-pack pumpkin
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup orange juice
- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries, not thawed

White icing, optional (recipe follows)

Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter an 8½-by-4½-inch loaf pan. In large bowl with electric mixer, beat pumpkin, sugar, orange juice, eggs and oil until smooth, about 1 minute. In small bowl, stir flour, baking powder, salt and pumpkin pie spice; add to pumpkin mixture; stir just until combined. Spoon ½ of batter into pan; spread evenly. Stir blueberries into remaining batter in bowl and spoon over batter in pan, spread evenly. Bake until a wooden skewer or toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 60 to 65 minutes. Cool in pan on a rack for 10 minutes; turn out onto rack; cool completely. May be wrapped and refrigerated for up to 4 days, or frozen for up to 1 month. If desired, drizzle with icing.

White Icing

Yield: ½ cup

- 1 cup sifted confectioners sugar
 - 2 tablespoons softened butter.
 - 1½ to 2 tablespoons milk
 - ½ teaspoon vanilla
- Combine sugar and butter in a bowl. Add the milk and vanilla and beat until smooth. Drizzle over cake.



Blueberry Breakfast Salad

Serves 8

- 2 pounds mixed, torn salad greens
 - Blueberry Vinaigrette (recipe follows)
 - 4 cups fresh blueberries
 - 4 cups fresh orange sections or canned mandarin oranges, drained
 - 2 cups granola
- Toss salad greens with 1½ cups of the Blueberry Vinaigrette. Divide the dressed greens among eight large plates. Arrange ½ cup orange sections and ½ cup blueberries on top of each salad. Sprinkle each salad with ½ cup granola. Drizzle remaining dressing on top. Serve immediately.

Blueberry Vinaigrette

Yield: 2 cups

- 1 cup olive oil
 - 1 cup frozen thawed blueberries
 - 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
 - 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 - 2 teaspoons minced shallot
 - 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 - ½ teaspoon ground white pepper
 - ½ teaspoon paprika
- Combine ingredients in food processor container. Process until mixture is smooth. Chill at least 30 minutes to blend flavors.

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SPORTS

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Northville varsity head coach Matt Ladach addresses his troops at the end of their first full day of practice.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Football practice starts across Michigan

Northville Mustangs looking for another successful season

By Sam Eggleston
 Correspondent

As the first full week of August made its way onto the calendar, many Northville High School students were sitting back fretting over the days until they were back in the classroom.

For the Northville Mustangs football team, under the guidance of head coach Matt Ladach, class was already in session.

Ladach doesn't hide the fact that he's excited over the 2012 season. But, truthfully, he's excited about football no matter what year it is.

"If I wasn't excited, I wouldn't be coaching," Ladach said. "I (couldn't) wait for Monday and I can't wait for Thursday, either. I really can't wait for our opener against Lakeland on August 24!"

The Mustangs came into the season in as good

of shape as they have been under Ladach's time at the program's lead. That's because of their summer conditioning, which wasn't as typical as one might think. Instead, there were tires being thrown and sledge hammers being lifted.

And at the end of it all? The last two weeks prior to the Michigan High School Athletics Association mandatory dead week from July 30-Aug. 5 were all about mental preparedness more than anything else.

"Our players have worked extremely hard to prepare themselves for the rigors of the upcoming season. I don't know exactly how much strength our players gained in their last few off-season workouts, but I do know that the challenges of our workouts helped them develop mental toughness."

Northville will be looking to have an upbeat tempo all season long and their first practice of the year proved it. Lots of training, lots of coaching took place throughout the day-long event.

That upbeat tempo is expected to transfer smoothly into the Northville playing style this season. "One thing our players will hear often this fall is 'play fast,'" said Ladach. "That's the primary goal of our defense. We will demand a lightning-fast tempo from our offense as well."

Training focuses on fundamentals on the first day and the ability to follow-through and finish on each and every play from blocking to running to tackling and more.

But the most important lesson being taught this week at Northville

Please see FOOTBALL, B2



Mustang Brandon Petrone catches a ball on Northville High's new artificial turf field Monday.

Trio of Novi girls compete in USAV tournament

Talented young players show promise for future of Wildcat program

By Chris Jackett
 Correspondent



From left to right, Novi residents Erin O'Leary, Olivia Bradford and Christina Hudgens recently participated in an international volleyball tournament in Iowa. The three girls were among an elite group throughout all of Michigan and northern Indiana to make the two 10-person USA Volleyball Lakeshore Regional High Performance teams.

Novi High School's varsity volleyball team has regularly been ranked among the best in the state during the past decade, but a handful of future Wildcats have already showed promise during a recent international tournament through USA Volleyball's High Performance program.

Three Novi girls were among the 20 chosen last month to participate for the two Lakeshore Region teams - which consist of Michigan and northern Indiana - at a USAV tournament July 24-28 at the Iowa

Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa. Residents Christina Hudgens, 14, and Erin O'Leary, 12, played with the select team (1998-99 birthdays), while Olivia Bradford, 15, played with the youth team (1996-97 birthdays). O'Leary was the only 12 year old on her region's team, which consisted of one 13 year old and eight 14 year olds.

"I play two to three years up," O'Leary said. "They had two try-outs. Then they invite 20 girls to go to a three-day camp. It was a great opportunity. It was probably the best coaching I've ever gotten. It was a wakeup."

Novi-based Skill Ignition AAU team last season and plans to play with Ann Arbor-based A2 this fall, said the three Novi girls were chosen from a pool of about 30 of the region's top youth players during a camp at Western Michigan University just two weeks before the Iowa tournament.

"We definitely got to know each other when we got there. Most people's parents didn't even come," O'Leary said, noting hers were some of the few to make the seven-hour drive. "It was very high level competition. There were teams

Please see USAV, B3



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville Mustang QB Joey Hewlett winds up to throw a pass on the first day of practice.

FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1
isn't about down blocking or form tackling, but the fact that there is no difference between a guard or an end or a linebacker or a defensive back. Each and every player is one

thing and one thing only: A Mustang.
'Being a selfless individual is a character trait that will help our players live successful lives as they grow older,' said Ladach.
'We talk about making sacrifices for the team and I ask our players to put the team before themselves as

individuals.'
Each and every lesson being taught on the field is for the betterment of the team as a whole, said Ladach. That, if last year's success was any indication, will translate into nothing but good things for the Mustangs in 2012.

Kelly Maise looks to help Alma to MIAA title

Northville graduate big part of Scots' game plan

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

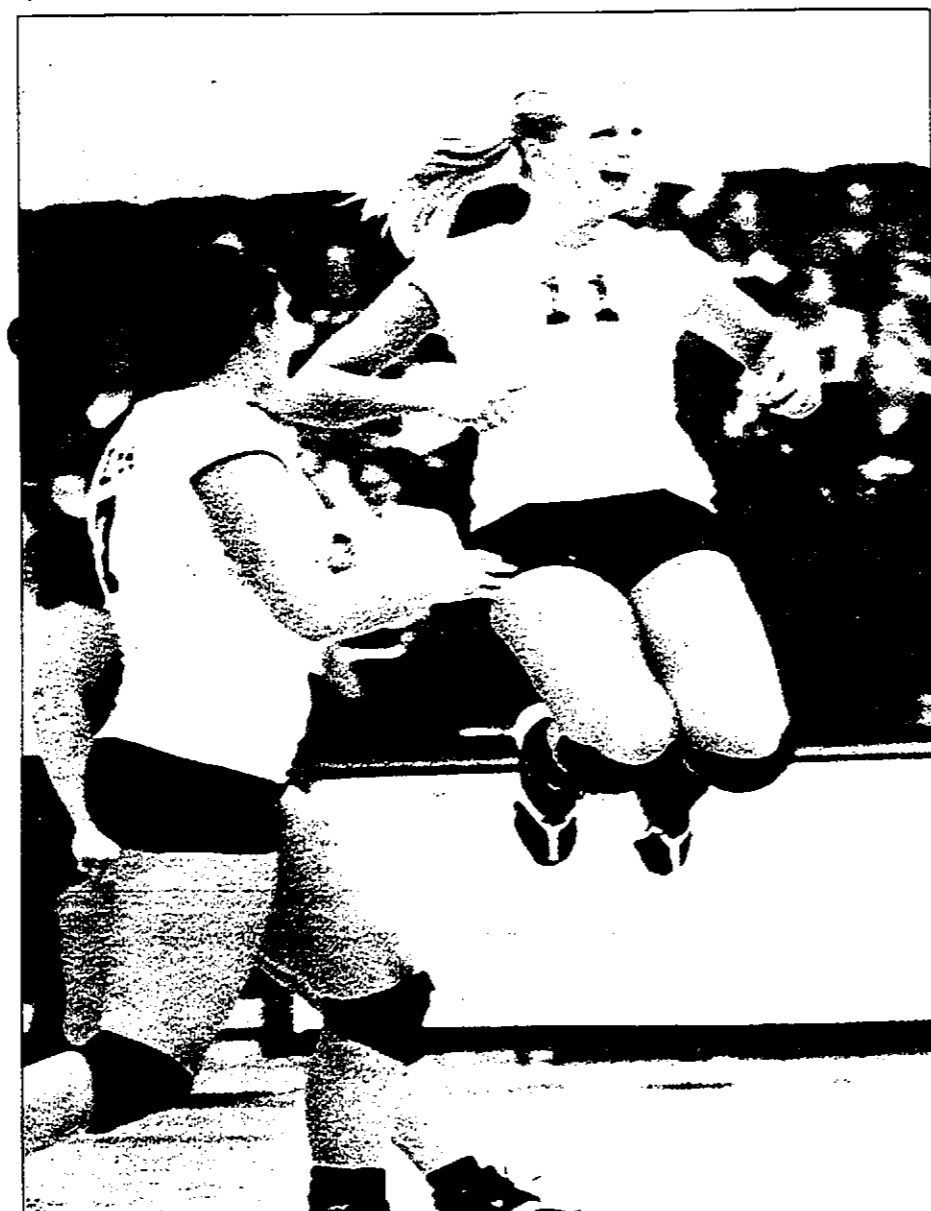
The Alma College Scots will be looking to get in the hunt for the MIAA conference title this year when the volleyball season picks back up.
The squad, which has finished in third place in the MIAA for the last two seasons, has one of Northville's top volleyball players on its roster

again this season and will be using her to help reach their season goals. Kelly Maise, a 2009 graduate of Northville High School, has been starting for the Scots since her freshman season. She is the Northville record holder for most kills in a single season with 484.

The Scots will have their hands full, however, with perennial top teams Calvin College and Hope

College to work their way through in order to make a run at the MIAA championship. Both teams are typically highly ranked nationally and Calvin College was the national champion in 2011.

Maise will be seeing the court from a slightly different perspective this year, transitioning from an outside hitter and defensive specialist to libero in 2012.



Northville 2009 graduate Kelly Maise celebrates a point for Alma.

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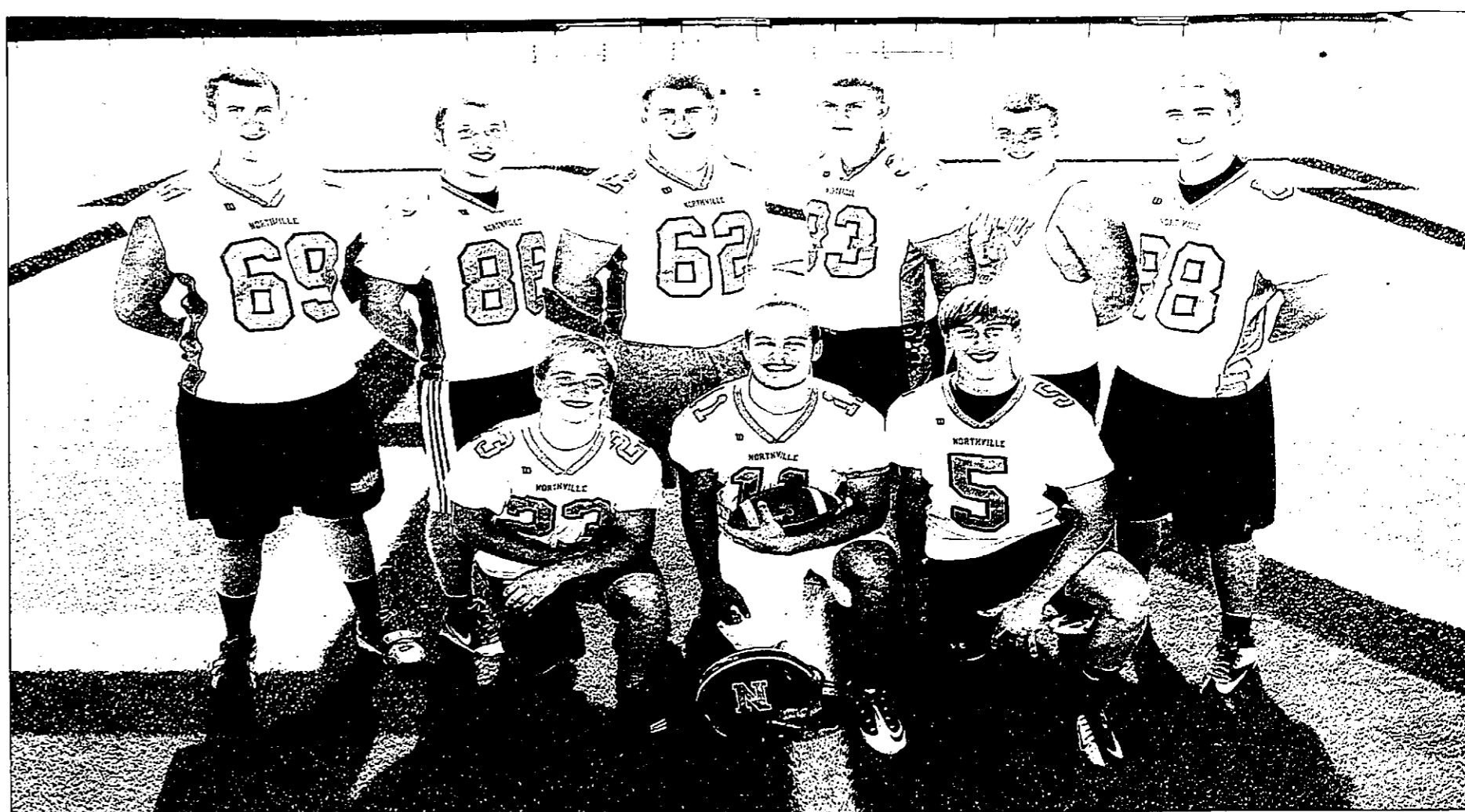
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A few varsity football team members enjoy a visit to their new artificial turf field. Back row, from left: David Hornshaw, Brandon Petrone, Evan Schriener, Jon Wines, R.J. Holloway and Sean Conway. Front row: Sam Tacconelli, Joey Hewlett and Nick Stegmyer.

Northville stadium project on schedule

Fundraisers to be held for Phase 2

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

The Northville Mustangs football team are going to have a nice new turf to play on this fall thanks to a lot of hard work by the Auch Construction Co.
Construction of Phase 1 of the football stadium project, said

Northville athletics director Bryan Masi, is right on schedule. The artificial turf was completed three weeks ago and if you haven't stopped by to see it yet, then you may want to.

The turf features orange letters trimmed in black and orange with a big block "N" in the middle of the field and Northville

written in both end zones. What's more is the new scoreboard, lights and sound system are all completed as well and the fence work and some concrete work is being finished up currently and will be ready for the first home game of the season.

"The Phase 1 stadium project has come together nicely," said Masi. "Almost all projects are complete including the turf, press box, sound system, lights

and scoreboard. Auch Construction Company has done an outstanding job thanks to the oversight of Jeff Hamilton, President of Auch Construction and Northville resident. We are excited to show the Northville community the new renovations when we kick off the football season on August 24."

But the project isn't quite finished yet. Phase 2 work still needs funding and the Turf

Club, which was key in helping raise money to cover Phase 1 projects, will be holding fund-raising events over the next year to help pay for the upgrades. Phase 2 will include new entrance ways in both the north and south ends of the stadium as well as renovated team rooms and storage areas and a renovated ticket and concession building complete with a community courtyard.

USVA

Continued from page B1

from all over the place. It was the best level of competition I've ever played. We played teams from California, Florida and Hawaii. I think all 10 of us girls improved."

Hudgens said the select team coaches, from Lake Superior State University

and Aquinas College, gave her some strategic insight she hopes will be beneficial as she attempts to break into the Wildcats' volleyball program as a freshman this week.

"The camp was really fun at Western," Hudgens said. "It was really awesome because they really knew what they were talking about. They taught us more strategy

than skill."
A setter with Michigan Elite and off-season setter James CYO player, Hudgens knows how competitive the local volleyball scene can be. But she's also been to Nationals with her AAU team and this was her second year with one of the USVA High Performance teams, which also put a national team on the court to face

other country's all-star teams.
"The play was definitely a lot better," Hudgens said. "I think it's helped me out a lot. For the most part, we were all good all-around players."
Although the girls didn't have much time for sight seeing while playing seven matches during the week — both finishing 4-3 with select landing eighth of 18

squads and youth landing seventh of 18 — they did get a few special visitors.
"We had the mayor of Des Moines talk to us and one of the Olympic players — who didn't end up going — who came and answered questions for us," Hudgens said.
The competition was a slight adjustment for the girls because all seven matches were decided

ed by the best of five games, as opposed to the AAU standard best of three games. But each praised their experience with the USVA High Performance program and hopes to participate again next year.
For more information on the program, visit www.teamusa.org/USA-Volleyball/High-Performance.aspx.

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Royal Oak's Gordon named new Novi athletic director

New AD ends 22-year stint with RONS to take 'dream job' in Novi

By Chris Jackett
columnist



NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Royal Oak Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Brian Gordon was selected Aug. 2 to become Novi High School's newest athletic director this fall.

Student-athletes at Novi High School will have a fourth face running the athletic department in the past 11 months, but this one plans to be running it for the rest of his career. Royal Oak High School Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Brian Gordon was selected Aug. 2 to take control of the athletic director position at Novi High School, effective Aug. 8.

"The Novi reputation is just fantastic. I sort of want to hang my hat there for a very, very long time," Gordon said. "The programs are just amazing and the community is so supportive. They truly understand the impact athletics can have on students."

A 45-year-old Rochester Hills resident, Gordon succeeds Christian Wilson, who served in the position from Nov. 28, 2011, until June 30, 2012, before moving back to Gaylord because the housing market would not allow his family to sell their house. Wilson had taken over for interim AD Julie Fiset, who spent about 10 weeks in the position

from where he grew up in Clawson.

"Royal Oak is very dear and close to my heart," Gordon said. "It was an opportunity. It's an amazing school district. Royal Oak is amazing, as well. (One reason was) probably because it was just an athletic director job and not with the assistant principal responsibilities with it."

"I want to thank everybody at Royal Oak and all the support. You don't advance through life without a lot of people helping you."

Prior to becoming a dual athletic director and assistant principal at ROHS, Gordon was a teacher in the district at the elementary, junior high and high school level. He has also coached football, basketball, baseball, golf and even pole vaulting at different points in his career, but transitioned his collegiate baseball playing career into a coaching role at ROHS.

He was named to the Michigan Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2011 after serving 15 years in the head varsity baseball coach position until he was named athletic director in 2010. He was the junior varsity coach

during his first five years with the district.

He also earned his Master of Arts degree in sports administration from Wayne State University in 2000.

"Mr. Gordon will be an excellent addition to our administrative team," Superintendent Dr. Steve M. Matthews said in a release. "He understands and is passionate about athletics. He will come to Novi and work hard to maintain the tradition of Novi Wildcat athletics and continue to move our athletic program forward."

"Mr. Gordon understands the importance of athletics, and he understands how it can contribute to the overall academic focus of our district. He will be a tireless worker for us."

Gordon's experiences in Royal Oak also includes four years as health advisory chairman, Curriculum Cabinet member for eight years and the district's in-house suspension director for three years. Although he wasn't brought in for an interview when he applied for the position last year, he said the timing and extra year of experience at ROHS made this year a better fit for him. This year, a panel of

14 administrators, coaches and teachers chose him.

"Last year would've been a difficult transition. I'm a believer things happen for a reason," Gordon said. "The one thing I can't wait to do is to meet all the kids and coaches and staff members at Novi. I'll be listening to a lot of people. I look forward to a lot of great years."

Because he already lives locally in Rochester Hills, he won't have to deal with relocating as Wilson had planned to do. His wife, Jill, is a 24-year mainstay as a Clawson Public Schools teacher and former middle school coach. His daughter McKenzie is a senior and his son Zachary is a sophomore, both at Rochester High. Both are involved in athletics for the Falcons through cheerleading, football and baseball, respectively.

"Athletics is definitely in our blood. It's something that's been a part of our family," Gordon said.

Gordon said he looks forward to his first Friday Night Lights experience with Novi Aug. 23 when the Wildcats host Brighton in the football season opener, reuniting an old KVC rivalry.

Local sailers get special surprise in Mackinac race

By Jeff Theisen
sports writer



The crew and family of the Notsos EZ Money show off the jerseys made up for the Port Huron to Mackinac race.

Mike Medwid has sailed the Port Huron to Mackinac race many times, but this year's race took on a different twist in a practically brand new boat.

The Commerce Township native sailed the race throughout the 1980s and even a few years ago aboard a different vessel - the EZ Money.

Medwid ordered a new boat some five years ago and got it delivered in May this year. It was named the Notsos EZ Money.

Medwid decided to put a crew together for the new race, with the special idea of getting his sons - Sam and Matt - involved with the race as

part of the 11-member crew. Matt had also sailed with him on several other races.

Medwid (also from

Commerce Township) explains what the crew was made up of: "A lot of the boats in the Mac are made up of professional

crews and racing vessels. Our boat is a cruiser, and the team was just a bunch of dudes who wanted to sail 36 hours straight with

no sleep for the experience of it all. Of course we had hoped to win just the same."

But a little pre-race luck brought something new to the race. The major area sports teams each draw a team out of the hat and are represented by that boat in a mini-race between the local teams.

Medwid's boat was pulled by the Detroit Red Wings. He decided to go all out and get jerseys made up for the crew and others involved with the boat, going as far as putting names on the back. The biggest difference being a picture of the boat was also on the back of the jersey.

"We had the nicest teams shirts for anybody

in the race," said Mike Medwid. "It was cool. It was a big thing to have that this year. It was fun for everybody."

While the Notsos EZ Money didn't win its particular class, it did finish first in the race for the local sports teams.

"We did not do very well in our class, so it was nice to win something," said Matt. "And the jerseys Mike got us were awesome."

Mike Medwid summed up the race: "It was a new boat this year and we didn't have much time to get to know the boat and how to sail it, but we did pretty good."

All while looking good as well.

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NHS Family Sports Pass available

The 2012-2013 Northville High School Athletic Boosters Club Family Sport Pass is now available to order. This convenient pass provides admittance to all Northville High School and Middle School sports regular home games. A one-time cost of \$125.00 covers your immediate family, including your NHS student or students or \$50 for an individual pass. All funds generated from the sales of these passes goes directly to support NHS sports. Purchasing a Family Sport Pass is a great way to support Northville High School sports at a time when budgets are being cut. Contact Membership Director Maureen Owen at (248) 348-0075 for more information.

Motor City Madness tryouts

For 13+ year olds, Madness has a tryout practice on Aug. 9 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Power Park.

Tryouts are Aug. 11-12th at Power Park. The schedule is as follows:

- 2pm-4pm: 10U (10 and under)
- 4pm-6pm: 12U (12 and under)
- 6pm-8pm: 14U (14 and under)
- 12-2pm: 16U (Sunday only)

Fitcher and catchers run an additional 30 minutes.

For registration information and more details, please visit our website at <http://www.eteamz.com/motorcity>.

The Madness organization will consider players from Novi and the surrounding communities. Please contact Chris Lawler at mcmadness softball@gmail.com for questions.

Soccer Challenge

Hines Park Ford has teamed up with the Total Sports Complex in Wilcox and the South Lyon Soccer Club to conduct two separate Escape Soccer Skills Challenge events.

The Total Sports event will be Aug. 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The South Lyon Soccer Club event will be Aug. 28 from 5-8 p.m.

Boys and girls, ages 8-13, will compete in a series of challenges designed to encourage teamwork, improve their soccer skills and most importantly, have fun.

Additional information on the Ford Escape Soccer Skills Challenge as well as the related sweepstakes contest to enter for a change to win a two-year lease of a 2013 Ford Escape can be found at www.fordescapesoccer-skillschallenge.com/findevent.

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WEEKLIES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wayt Brielle Detroit August 9
Megan Clark Livonia August 19

Share your talent!

Do you write, draw, make crafts, take photographs, or do something else that you would like others to know about? Share your talent with us. We may share your extraordinary talent in an upcoming Scoop's Hound Dog Highlight.

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Coordinator/Contributing Writer:
Choya Jordan, Marketing Manager
Interested in becoming a sponsor of Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights or have general questions?
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July 4th Family Fun!

Jack of Royal Oak spent the Fourth of July with this family at their family cottage for their annual Kids Day. The day was filled with fun, games and competition including sack races, limbo contests, eggs toss, tug of war, wheel barrel racing, water balloons and more. This year Jack won the sack race.

Hope enjoyed the day with her proud dad while he snapped photos of her participating in the Milford July 4th parade.

Jack Armstrong - Royal Oak
Hope Drogmiller - Novi

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Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

Summer Fun!

CONTEST

You could win movie passes admitting 4 people to Emagine theatre and a backpack full of school supplies.

Selected winners will be announced in a future Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Scoop's Craft Corner

Paper Plate Watermelon Craft

When you think of summer fun you may think of watermelons.

Supplies:
- Paper Plate
- Pink, Dark Green, Light green, and Black Paint

Instructions:
Paint the wavy ridge of the paper plate dark green. This will be a circle around the plate approximately 1" thick. Now paint a smaller circle lighter green just inside of the larger circle. Completely paint the center of the plate pink. Using the black paint, make small little tear shapes to simulate seeds. Once the paint is completely dry, fold the paper plate in half. You have just created the perfect slice of watermelon.

Help Scoop find his way through the park

IN OUT

A day with Dad!

Meaghan from Livonia and her Dad on a carousel at Greenfield Village. "We all had a fabulous time. Meaghan really liked the rides in the old cars around the village, however she always enjoys a carousel ride!"
Meaghan Dick - Livonia

Elizabeth from Farmington and her dad kayaking on the pond on the Huron River. "It's still a beautiful autumn Saturday to go kayaking with my dad. It's our own father-daughter time!"
Elizabeth Ho - Farmington

Grace from Farmington and her dad at the Grand Prix. "Dad made me a pine-wood Derby car and I won first place this year. I brought home a trophy because my dad made me a terrific car. Thank you Dad and I love you!"
Grace Ho - Farmington

WHEELS

Auto Auctions
 VEHICLES UP FOR AUCTION on Thurs. 8:16/2012 @ 9am, Wisconsin Township, 248-624-8070, 30200 Beck Rd., Wisam, MI 48303. **PHONIC** 1-800-251-3131/3150997 **WWW** 1J4RGWSR52XC9B0298

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 ALL AUTOS, TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT Running or Not Wanted Highest \$\$\$ paid. Free friendly towing! Batteries wanted too. 248-437-0094

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 FORD F-350, 1989 Crew cab, dually, 460ci, 35k original miles, garaged, owned since 1989, exc. cond. \$11,500/best. 147,000 Miles. \$8,700/best. 517-546-5280, 517-256-2169

Mini-Vans
 GMC '08 Safari, SLX, 8 passenger, 1 owner non smoker \$3,495 810-599-6270

Vans
 DODGE RAM 3500 2000 Wheelchair lift, high-top, low miles, \$4200. Call: (248) 824-1971

Sports Utility
 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER, 2003 4x4, 137K mile, runs great. \$5,500. Call: (810)691-5030

Trucks for Sale
 GMC YUKON SLT 2004 Silver Birch Metallic, Leather, Sunroof, 2nd Row Bucket Seats, Brand New Tires. Great Condition, Smoke free and No Accidents. Well Maintained. 147,000 Miles. \$8,700/best. 586-817-2127

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'11 BMW 328XI AWD Moonroof, leather, one owner, \$31,995 Brighton Ford 800-836-7697

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