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Novi News

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2013 • hometownlife.com

Proud Lake Adventure Day

The Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center and the Proud Lake Recreation Area-Michigan Department of Natural Resources are hosting Proud Lake Adventure Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, at the PLRA, 3500 Wixom Road, Commerce Township.

Zip line, climbing tower, fishing, mountain biking, canoeing, archery, environmental education activities will all be available for kids and adults.

Ice cream and a kids activity passport will be provided. There will be hot dogs, pop and chips for sale. All ages are welcome, but children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. All children under 18 must have a signed waiver by their parent or guardian to participate in adventure challenge activities.

It is free to participate in all activities, but vehicles entering the state park must have a Recreation Passport.

Contact Stuart Riley at stuartriley@wlcsl.org or 248-956-5120.

MORE ROAD WORK TARGETED

Repairs to start next month, end in November

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Another round of asphalt road improvements for Novi neighborhoods is expected to start next month.

Segments of Newberry Drive, Mansfield Drive, Jamestowne Road, Huntington Road, Yorkshire Road and Concord Drive are slated for milling, overlaying and interlayer work.

City council members approved by a 7-0

vote Aug. 12 change order one to Cadillac Asphalt for the 2013 Neighborhood Road Program. This is part of the program's second contract for asphalt road fixes and is in the amount of \$433,126.

"This is a positive in that we're dedicating additional dollars to neighborhood roads for fixes," City Manager Clay Pearson told the city council. "We want to get it done as soon as possible."

The 2013 Neighborhood Road Program consists of two separate contracts: concrete

and asphalt. The concrete contract was awarded to GV Cement in April, while the asphalt contract was awarded to Cadillac Asphalt in June.

According to Pearson, following these awards staff was able to determine the remaining available budget that could be allocated for additional street rehabilitation (the 2013 Neighborhood Road Program budget was augmented after the initial design had been completed).

This overall road project was included in the fiscal year 2012-13 Capital Improvement

See ROAD WORK, Page A2

Say 'Cheesecake'!



A line snakes about 200 feet down the sidewalk Tuesday at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall at the grand opening of the Cheesecake Factory restaurant. The restaurant chain - Novi is its first Michigan location - got its start in the late 1940s from the family of Detroit's Evelyn Overton, who created a popular cheesecake recipe. Overton was persuaded by her children to move to California, where the franchise began its journey. ALL PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carter appointed interim principal

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

She did not receive enough votes from the Board of Education to be named the new principal at Novi High School, but Nicole Carter was reappointed by the superintendent to be the interim principal for the 2013-14 school year.

Dr. Steve Matthews made the announcement via an email Thursday.

"She knows our initiatives, she knows our students and staff, she knows our teacher evaluation system, she knows our schedule, she knows what positions need to be hired and she knows the building," he wrote.

"Additionally, she is ready to begin and can begin right away fulfilling these roles."

Carter is one of three assistant principals at the school. She had been serving as the interim principal for the last few months of the 2012-13 school year after Principal Carol Diglio was named assistant superintendent of human resources. Carter was promoted to assistant principal at Novi High early in 2010. She started at the school 11 years prior as a civics, economics and AP government teacher before becoming dean of students in 2007.

The principal job was posted June 12. Of the 67 candidates, Carter and Charles LaClear (also an assistant principal at Novi High) were the two finalists. Matthews' recommendation to the board was for Carter, but at its Aug. 1 meeting, the board voted 3-3 and she did not earn the appointment.

The three dissenting voters - Dennis O'Connor, George Kordland and Shari Lebo - did not feel Carter had the necessary experience and they had issues with the hiring process. Board member Jason Manar was absent and did not vote, but he had questioned the hiring process prior to that.

At the conclusion of that meeting, the board asked Matthews to develop and implement a plan for the coming year for leadership at the high school.

"The overarching point of concern for me was to develop a plan that could be implemented quickly that would ensure that the students and staff would have leadership for the beginning of the year," Matthews said.

Carter



Cheesecake Factory employee Tony Montero boxes up servings of the restaurant's iconic dessert treat at its grand opening.



Novi's Cheesecake Factory restaurant saw booming business on its first day as customers around noon waited more than an hour for a table.

New contracts include wage increases

Cops, dispatchers, clerks all get three-year deal

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Under a new three-year labor agreement, Novi police officers, dispatchers and clerks will get a modest wage increase this year and a new type of increase in year two that will save the city of Novi some legacy costs.

Novi City Council unanimously approved two separate union contracts - one with the Police Officers Labor Council and the other with the Police Clerks and Dispatchers Associ-

ation - for terms from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2016.

Wage agreement

After not seeing an increase in their wages in several years, both units will receive a 1.5-percent increase effective this year and then another 1.5 percent in 2015. However, in 2014 they will get 1.8-percent increase and a \$500 flat stipend.

The stipend provided in the second year of the contract does not count toward an employee's final average compensation calculation for pension and does not increase wage-related benefits such as overtime, longevity (for those employees who receive it) or holi-

day pay. According to Tia Gronlund-Fox, the city's human resources director, that will save the city money.

The police officers group represents more than 30 officers, while dispatchers/clerks number less than 20.

"This agreement is significant as it provides a stipend for payment in lieu of a traditional wage increase," Gronlund-Fox said of both contracts.

Other changes

Another change in the contract is that both agreements allow the City of Novi to change its current payroll prac-

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CONTRACTS

Continued from Page A1

marked or semi-marked police vehicle to be driven to 100,000 miles (from 80,000 miles currently), which will extend the use and need of replacement of vehicles.

And there is amended language for the city to have the ability to designate one K-9 assignment to each shift, plus language to allow a retiree to elect and pay 100 percent of the premium for dental at the time of retirement.

Police officers will also get an increase in their annual equipment allowance from \$50 to \$100 with proof of purchase.

Novi Public Safety Director/Police Chief David Mully said during his time the department has always had a good working relationship with the unions. He said some of the operational language that is new in the police officer contract is just practical.

Effective August 2014, the City will move the pay date by one week, thereby creating a one-week reserve of time, which is a standard practice among employers when processing payroll, she said. This change will not affect the city's ability to obtain quotes for a Time and Attendance payroll Module, according to Gronlund-Fox.

The agreement will also include amended language to allow for a

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Surprise seeds



Novi resident Luke Altomare poses by one of his three surprise pumpkins at his Galway Street home Aug. 6. Altomare, needing fertilizer for his vegetable garden, took a delivery of sheep manure earlier this summer and was startled by its unexpected gifts. A number of large pumpkins sprouted thanks to the fertilizer, apparently a consequence of the sheep being fed pumpkins at a certain point last fall. Altomare said the largest one, seen here, was 50 inches in circumference and still growing. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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ROAD WORK

Continued from Page A1

Program in the budgeted amount of \$1,300,000 for construction this year, with an additional \$300,000 budgeted for fiscal year 2013-14, for a total construction budget of \$1,600,000 for the 2013 Neighbor-

ROAD PROGRAM

To date, according to Novi officials, \$588,019 has been awarded to GV Cement for the first construction contract and \$662,772 was awarded to Cadillac. With the awarding of the \$433,126, the total allocated stands at \$1,683,917.

Public Services Director Rob Hayes said work should start on this next phase by mid-September,

with a scheduled end date of November.

For more information on the segments, visit <http://www.cityofnovi.org/Resources/Library/Minutes/MinutesArchive/Frameset.htm>.

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Heil's trail project earns him Eagle Scout status

Novi High School senior improves Chase Farms trail

Charles W. Heil III became an Eagle Scout on May 6, making him the 47th Eagle Scout from Novi's Boy Scout Troop 407, which is chartered by Holy Family Catholic Church.

Heil's project included clearing more than a quarter-mile of the Chase trail located in the Chase Farms subdivision. Additionally, the project comprised constructing bat houses and signage, which were placed along the trail. He led more than 20 people to a successful completion of his project.

Heil has earned 40 merit badges so far; 21 are required to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. He plans to earn the Disability Awareness Merit Badge before he graduates from high school.

His community service work included volunteering as a buddy for the baseball players of the Miracle League, many hours at Gleaners and at canned food drives and numerous troop-related landscaping events.

In Troop 407, Heil held the Scout-elected position of senior patrol leader and led the troop of about 60 scouts for a year. He enjoys mentoring all Scouts, especially his younger brother Robby, who is a Life Scout in Troop 407.

Heil is currently a senior at Novi High School. He plays trumpet in the wind ensemble and is in the marching band.

After graduating from high school, his ambition includes pursuing a chemical engineering or computer science degree.

In July, he was invited to and attended the Michigan State University BEACON program which is designed toward giving potential future engineers and biologists hands-on experience in these disciplines. He enjoyed the program and plans to apply to Michigan State University and several other state of Michigan universities.

At Heil's Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony on Aug. 4, state Rep. Hugh Crawford, R-Novi, presented him with a special tribute signed by Crawford and state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake. Crawford congratulated Heil and challenged him to continue his excellent efforts in all aspects of life.



Eagle Scout Charles Heil III was presented with a commendation at the Aug. 12 Novi City Council meeting (which was televised and will be available online).

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EDUCATION

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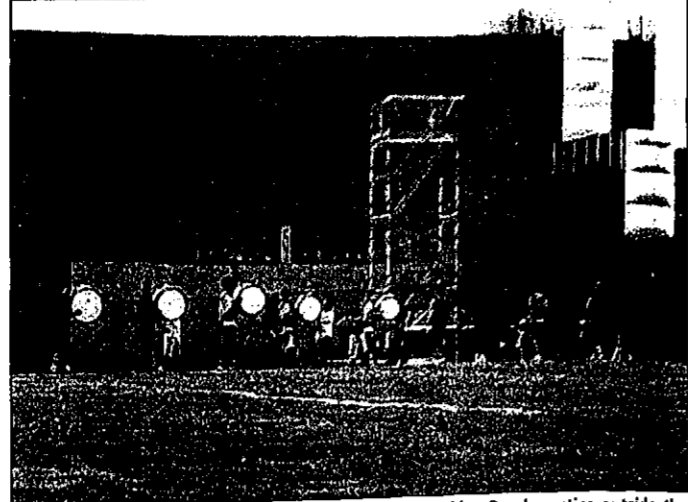
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Members of the drumline portion of the Novi High Marching Band practice outside the school. CAL STONE

Novi marching band's practices bring 'sense of family'

By **Loni Huhman**
Staff Writer

The hard work the Novi High School Marching Band puts in during these late summer weeks pays off come halftime of the football games and at the upcoming competitions with other bands.

Another result of all this practice is the band is brought closer together.

"There is a sense of family with the band," senior Kyle Kilponen said.

He is part of a band that has 160 members going into this school year. Each class from freshman on up to seniors has almost equal representation. This balance gives the group a tight-knit feel.

In the past couple of weeks, the band has been hard at work practicing its sound and maneuvers. Much of this was done during the annual band camp, which features long 12-hour days and a lot of sweat under the sun.

It's a lot of dedication, but NHS band director Mark Hourigan said this is what it takes. He thinks this band has it—and that it was exhibited during the camp.

Hourigan credited the success of this year's camp to the "student band members' dedicated work, the efforts of the band camp staff and the fortunate weather."

Members have been working on this year's theme of the 2013 competitive program, "Love and War." This program focuses on the effect war has on personal relationships. It explores the act of soldiers going to war, the reunion of loved ones and the tragic consequences when soldiers don't return.

The program features music from the soundtrack of the movie *Gettysburg*, along with music from classic American composers such as Aaron Copland.

The band's first competition will be Sept. 21 at Novi Stadium, as it hosts other area high schools during Novi Fanfare, which is the one big year fundraiser for the band. It will also present parts of the program during halftime of home football contests, with the first of those performances Sept. 6.

Community members can expect some great performances.

"I think this is a really good band," senior trombone player Austin Burcharth said. "There has been a change in mindset and we're really pushing each other to get better."

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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE UPDATES

Book discussion group schedule

The public is invited to join with Schoolcraft College students, faculty and staff in the monthly Pageturners book discussions and events.

September's featured book, *All My Sons*, by Arthur Miller, explores the relationships between fathers and sons and the conflict between business and personal ethics.

Discussions of the book will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23, and at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, in the Bradner Library on the college's main campus in Livonia and at 4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Radcliff Center in Garden City. A special presentation of the movie adaptation of the book will be shown at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, in the McDowell Center on the main campus.

International Institute focuses on Russia

Each year, the International Institute coordinates a campus-wide focus on one cultural region of the world or global theme. The Focus Series features films, presentations, displays and performances allowing students and community members to explore the culture, politics, economics and history of the featured region and its relation to the rest of the world. Instructors in many departments introduce materials related to the theme and encourage their students to participate in these varied learning opportunities. The community is encouraged to participate in Focus Series events, too.

Russia and its Envois will be the focus for several events this fall, including a traveling exhibit from the Florida Holocaust Museum: The Holocaust through Czech Children's Eyes in Lower Waterman of the Vis-Tech Center from Sept. 20 to Oct. 11.

Daniel Yezbick, associate professor of English and the coordinator of global education at Forest Park College in St. Louis, Mo., will be on campus for several events including an exploration of how filmmakers shaped the opinions and perceptions of the world about former Soviet bloc nations like Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia for decades, at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 2 in the McDowell Center.

The Focus Series Film Festival will host an airing of "4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days in Liberal Arts" at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9. Directed by Cristian Mungiu, the film is set in Communist Romania in the final years of the Nicolae Ceausescu era.



Open auditions for Detroit Metropolitan Youth Symphony are Aug. 24 in Farmington Hills.

Open auditions for Detroit Metropolitan Youth Symphony on Aug. 24

By **Aileen Wingblad**
Staff Writer

Young musicians—from first-graders just beginning to play through experienced high schoolers—are invited to try out for the 2013-14 season of the Detroit Metropolitan Youth Symphony, billed as one of the premier youth orchestras in Michigan.

Open auditions will be held Aug. 24 at North Farmington High School, where students will meet with a conductor from the Detroit Metropolitan Youth Symphony, billed as one of the premier youth orchestras in Michigan.

Some 250 young musicians make up the four orchestras, which include Junior String, String, Concert and Symphony.

Darby's daughter, Rebecca, is beginning her third season with the orchestra as a clarinetist.

Darby said Rebecca heard about MYS from a former member who has since moved on to college. "We checked it out and, fortunately, she got in," Darby said. "And what really attracted me was how very well-run it is. I was just so impressed—it's very professional."

The organization, she explained, is to supplement rather than replace orchestras or bands students are involved with at school. "The whole idea is love of music. If a student wants to play music that might be more challenging, look our way," Darby said.

Detroit MYS conductors are John Robertson, Geoffrey Benes, Victoria Halton and Kathleen Grimes. Each makes students feel "very comfortable and are very friendly," so youngsters needn't be intimidated or afraid of auditioning, Darby added.

Students accepted for MYS pay tuition ranging from \$230 to \$280. Audition packets and more information are available at www.detroitmetsymphony.org. Darby also welcomes calls at (248) 684-6058.

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PRINCIPAL

Continued from Page A1

The administrative structure of the high school will continue to include three assistant principals (Robert Baker is the other), while Matthews indicated an interim high school assistant principal will also be appointed. The interim high school assistant principal will be a retired administrator who has the capacity to handle varied responsibilities and support the administrative team.

With Carter set to handle the principal's duties for the full school year, the position will not be posted until March 2014 with a recommendation to the board in May and the new principal in place by July 1.

"I believe this is a good interim step that will help us start the school year well," Matthews wrote. "It will help us continue our momentum and move the high school forward."

Although a local website posted Matthews' Aug. 8 email with the title "Superintendent overrules School Board," O'Connor clarified: "Personnel decisions on interim appointments are made by superintendent; personnel decisions on permanent hires are made by school boards."

Matthews reiterated, as well: "I did not overrule the Board of Education. I assigned a current administrator on an interim basis to an open position that needed to be filled. The Board of Education directed me to develop a plan to ensure that the high school was ready for the start of school. I assigned a capable administrator to that position. It is not a permanent assignment. However, it does give me confidence that school will start well at the high school this year."

Novi High School will begin welcoming students next week for athletic registration and the following week for registration and orientation. Sept. 3 is the first day of school for all students of the Novi Community School District.

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NOVI SCHOOL BRIEFS

Robotics meeting

The NBOT Novi Robotics Booster is having a Novi Robotics Team Up meeting 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15, at Novi Civic Center to inform parents and kids on how to start a team, become part of a team, learn what the robotics programs are about, information on grants and more.

Last year, the meeting was slated at the Novi Public Library and more than 200 parents and students attended. A new venue was reserved this year to accommodate the expected crowds. The program is divided by ages and grades:

- Junior FIRST LEGO League (Jr. FL) - ages 6-9
- FIRST LEGO League (FLL) - grades 4-6; kickoff Aug. 27
- FTC Tech Challenge (FTC) - middle school; kickoff Sept. 7
- FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) - high school; kickoff Jan. 4

Last year, local teams made it to the world competition in St. Louis in April.

Email novirobotics@gmail.com for information.

Adult ed registration

Are you a fifth-year senior who wants a high school diploma? Didn't graduate? Working? There are credit recovery options, you can earn credits for employment and there is no residency requirement through the Adult Education Program of the Novi Community School District.

For spring semester: To achieve this recognition, students must earn a 3.85 grade-point on a 4.0 scale.

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Novi High's Link Crew

Novi High School's Link Crew will be rolling out the red carpet to welcome incoming freshmen this fall. Incoming freshmen are invited to attend a high energy, interactive freshmen orientation from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Aug. 20, in the main gymnasium.

Link Crew is a nationally recognized high school transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout their first year of their high school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, juniors and seniors have been selected to be Link Crew Leaders. As positive role models, Link Crew Leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the freshmen during the transition to high school.

NOVI ON CAMPUS

Northwood University
Novi's Melanie A. Buntio, a freshman, has been named to the President's List for spring semester.

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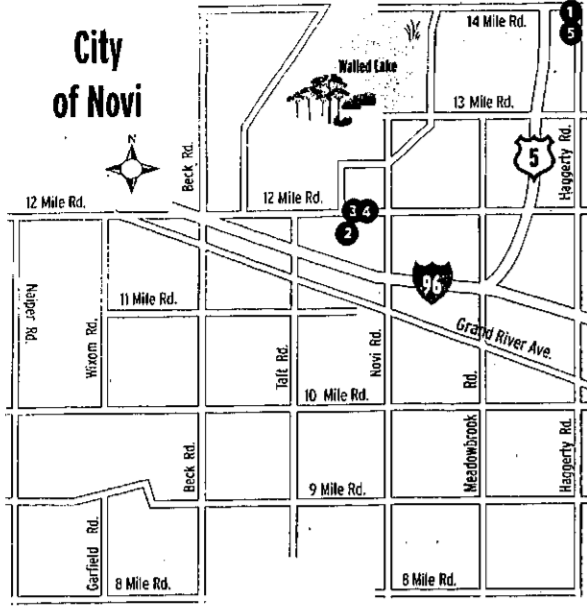
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NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Drunken driving again
A 28-year-old man was again arrested for drunken driving after being stopped by Novi police July 27 for a headlight out and going 65 mph in a 55 mph zone. He was stopped at M-5 and 14 Mile. Police reported smelling intoxicants on his breath. At first he said he had no alcohol to drink, but later told police he had had two beers. After losing balance a bit during his field sobriety tests, the police gave him a preliminary breathalyzer test, which registered a 0.09 percent. A second test later revealed a blood-alcohol of 0.10. The man's vehicle was impounded.

Wallet stolen at Powerhouse Gym
A Powerhouse Gym member had his wallet containing cash and credit cards stolen during a workout July 30. The man told Novi police that his wallet went missing while it was stored in a locker.

Mountain bike stolen
A boy's new mountain bike was stolen July 23 from the Country Place Clubhouse. The boy's mother told Novi police that the bike green Next Mountain bike was taken while it was parked alongside the clubhouse with other bikes. It was reportedly not locked up and is priced at \$105. There was no security footage of that area.

Marijuana possession
A 22-year-old man was arrested for marijuana possession after being pulled over for not stopping at a red light July 31. The man was stopped by a Novi police officer after they spotted him not stopping at the light near M-5 and 14 Mile. Police reported smelling marijuana inside the vehicle, witnessed him chewing what appeared to be marijuana and reported small chunks of it on his shirt. He was made to spit it out so police could use it as evidence. It later tested positive. His vehicle was impounded.

Prizes stolen from Lucky Strike
Several prizes, including a digital camera, tablet and PSP game, were stolen from Lucky Strike in the Twelve Mile

BRIEFS

County road commission's budget hearing Aug. 22

The Road Commission for Oakland County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on its proposed fiscal year 2014 budget at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac.

The proposed 2014 budget, at just over \$108 million, includes plans for nearly \$40 million worth of road improvement projects such as road widening, reconstruction or gravel road paving or work toward future road improvement projects, \$18.2 million for road maintenance efforts such as pothole patching, gravel road grading and salting and plowing in the winter, and \$9 million for maintaining traffic signs, signals, pavement markings and guard rails among other activities.

Although the program is free of charge, preregistration is required at the city of Novi Older Adult Services Office inside the Novi Civic Center or by calling 248-347-0414. The state of Michigan Senior Brigade program, managed by the attorney general's office, provides older adults and their caregivers with trusted and useful information on financial matters, common senior scams and health care.

Study: Payments higher after helmet law change

By Joanne Maliszewski Staff Writer

It may be too early to determine any correlation or impact from the 15-month-old state helmet choice law on crashes and injuries, but it appears insurance claims and associated costs have increased. "Right now we only have one year of data," said Lt. Greg Megge of the Michigan State Police Traffic Services Section. "We are speaking in general terms, we don't have a lot of data." In April 2012, Michigan's longstanding law requiring helmets for all motorcycle riders was scrapped for learner rules that allow riders 21 years and older to legally ride without a helmet if they carry at least \$20,000 in medical payments insurance coverage and have at least two years of riding experience and special safety training. Today, only 19 states require all riders to wear helmets, while 28 require helmets for some motorcyclists. Illinois, Iowa and New Hampshire don't have



Motorcyclists who choose not to wear a helmet are required to have two years of riding experience and safety classes.

frequency on its own increased about 12 percent. The research group made it very clear that the increase in medical payment overall losses stems from a definite 36-percent increase in the severity of claims. Following the change in the law, motorcyclists who choose to ride without a helmet increased their medical payments policy limits to the required \$20,000 minimum. Yet even with the change in policy limits, HLDI found that medical payments claim severity is estimated to have increased — just in 15 months — by 22 percent. HLDI said the results are "consistent with (the) expectation that crashes after the law change resulted in more severe injuries as a result of less helmet use." The Motorcycle Safety Foundation, which advocates safe motorcycle riding, holds fast to its belief that helmets work, just as different types of helmets work in sports and other professions, including construction, football and the military. "As far as increased insurance costs, Consiglio points out that in Michigan motorcyclists pay into the state's catastrophic fund, while many other states, including those in HLDI's study, don't even have catastrophic funds." In 2012, Megge said, the state had 112 motorcycle fatalities. In 2011, the total was 109. Currently, in 2008, 125 fatal motorcycle accidents were reported. In 2009, there were 103 fatalities. Based on these statistics, it is difficult to determine the impact — yet — of the helmet law.

Welcome additions



Work continued Aug. 5 at the Novi Civic Center on the addition of around 18 parking stalls on the north side of the center. The area was formerly a dead-end drive on the west side of the north parking lot. JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Council adopts bike parking requirements

Covered parking divides members

By Lonnie Hulman Staff Writer

Novi has enacted a new ordinance for bicycle parking facility requirements that calls for new developments, including privately owned ones, to have or plan for bike parking locations. Novi City Council, however, was split on the requirement that some locations will need to provide covered parking. Mayor Bob Gatt supported the first reading of the ordinance in consideration that staff would review the proposed requirements, specifically covered parking. "I don't like the idea of covered parking at all and I'm still opposed to having private businesses required to build parking spots for bicycles," Gatt said. "I'm fully agreeable to have public buildings — libraries, stores, schools, anywhere the public is invited — but if I'm John Smith and I want to build a tool and die shop, I just don't think the city should be telling me to put bicycle spots in." For council member Laura Marie Casey, some of the changes recommended by the council and made by staff since the first reading made

her want to support it. "I think we have got reasonable accommodation for situations, for example, where covered parking may not be practical," Casey said. "I think we have sufficient means for a developer to come in and request that we land bank or provide a waiver." Council members Terry Margolis and Wayne Wrobel, as well as Gatt, voted against it, primarily due to the covered requirement. Ordinance language By a 4-3 vote, council approved the second reading and adoption of the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to amend the city of Novi Zoning Ordinance at Article 25, "General Provision" to add Section 2526 "Bicycle Parking Facilities Requirements" to provide bicycle parking requirements and bicycle parking area layout standards. The changes from the first reading removed the reference to covered parking requirements for multiple-family units in the Bicycle Parking Space Requirement Table and significantly increased the number of spaces (from 10 up to 20) that must be provided before covered spaces are required. In addition, it reduced the number of covered spaces that must be required from 50

percent to 25 percent and added the ability to waive the covered parking entirely. City staff said an example of this would be a 115,000-square-foot general office building that is required to provide 402 automobile parking spaces would be required to provide 20 bicycle parking spaces. Under the ordinance, a total of five (25 percent of the total provided) of those would be required to be covered parking spaces. In this example, the covered bike parking spaces could be under a building overhang, in a parking garage, under a canopy, in the building itself or in more secure bike lockers, according to city staff. The waiver clause allows the Planning Commission (or the administration, for an administrative site plan approval) to waive the requirements to provide a bike parking facility. It includes some standards, but also states that retail and service uses that deal directly with customers, residential housing uses and others that are open to the public generally, are not eligible for a waiver (though they would remain eligible for a deferral/land banking).

hulman@hometownlife.com 248-437-2011, ext. 255. Twitter: @lhulman

No-fault insurance debate rages on

By Larry Ruehlen Staff Writer

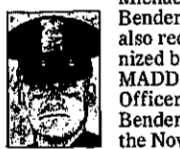
Erica Coulston knows the value of Michigan's no-fault insurance system better than most. She was in a serious car accident 12 years ago and became a quadriplegic. Years of medical treatment and physical therapy have made her not only more independent, but more upbeat about the future. "My attendant care costs \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year," she said. "I know (accident victims) on Medicare, Blue Cross, Medicaid, who get zero for attendant care. Their families must provide it and if they don't, they go into nursing homes."

Coulston is co-founder of Walk the Line to SCI Recovery and was honored as Oakland County "Elite 40 Under 40" winner in February. Coulston was a panelist at a town hall meeting on no-fault auto insurance reform held July 25 at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit. The event was organized by state Rep. Phil Cavanagh, D-Redford Township. "I wanted a serious discussion and we certainly had one," Cavanagh said. "This bill was so bad... there was enough for everyone to find something in it to hate. I think we need reform. I have heard universally that people want no-fault to stay. If you put a fraud, waste and abuse commission in place, maybe it will lower costs." Cavanagh called the town hall meeting because he is upset that Michigan drivers pay a \$186 fee to the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association for every car. He wants the agency to explain why the fee keeps going up and is demanding that the MCCA be more open and accessible to public scrutiny. "I will introduce a package of eight bills in September," Cavanagh said. "We need reform." Gov. Rick Snyder has publicly backed a Republican plan to abolish the requirement that consumers purchase unlimited lifetime medical coverage in auto insurance. The proposal caps coverage for catastrophic accident victims at \$1 million. Tom Shields, of the Coalition for Auto Insurance Reform, supported the plan. "Unlimited medical coverage is hurting our Michigan companies," Shields said. "Medical costs are three times higher than our closest state." Shields said the \$1 million cap would cover 99.8 percent of all claims in the state. He

was also frustrated with different costs for treatments depending on who is paying for it — auto insurance companies, worker's compensation insurance or Medicare. "A broken arm is a broken arm," he said. "It shouldn't cost more just because an auto insurance company is paying the bill." Coulston talked about the plight of a friend she referred to only as Jeremy. She said he was in an accident in 2010 and didn't have the same benefit of Michigan's no-fault insurance with unlimited medical coverage. His insurance money ran out fast, his parents had to take him in and the exorbitant costs were ruining his family's finances. Plaintiff attorney Ven Johnson said the same fate would happen to accident victims in Michigan if the proposed changes become law. "If Erica's accident had happened a day after this bill went into effect," Johnson said, "they would find a doctor to say her treatment isn't necessary." The bill in question is still in committee in the Legislature and is losing support, even among some key Republicans in Oakland County. Pete Kuhnmeuch, executive director of the Insurance Institute of Michigan, explained why reform is necessary: "We are trying to address a growing problem before it becomes a major issue. Detroit's bankruptcy happened because people kept kicking the can down the road... we can agree auto insurance rates are too high... we can't close our eyes to it." He said 20 percent of motorists drive around without insurance because they can't afford it. "No-fault is the right system, but we have to be responsible for how we pay for it and how we structure it... Let's sit down and try to negotiate. If we do nothing, no one will be able to afford the system we have today," Kuhnmeuch said. After more than two hours of heated debate in which both sides rarely agreed, Melvin "Butch" Hollowell, NAACP general counsel, said one thing is certain. "It's not like accidents won't still happen," he said. "They will, but once the \$1 million cap is reached and the victim is broke, the costs will be switched over to the Medicare system."

Novi Police receive award from MADD

Earlier this month, the Novi Police Department was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving with a 2013 Outstanding Law Enforcement Agency Award, becoming one of only four agencies in the state of Michigan to receive this prestigious award. In addition to being recognized for relentless enforcement efforts in the apprehension of intoxicated drivers, the department was also recognized for the Choose Your Ride prevention program. It highlights the safety risks for both the driver and others, as well as shares the cost of being arrested for drunken driving including jail time and more than \$10,000 in total fines and costs. Throughout Novi, posters encouraging people to find an alternate way home are placed at local establishments that serve or sell alcoholic beverages. A special police/taxi vehicle, designed specifically to promote the program, serves as a visual reminder of the risks of drunken driving. Novi Police Officer Michael Bender was also recognized by MADD. Officer Bender was the Novi Police Department's nominee for the Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award. He has arrested dozens of intoxicated drivers and developed excellent working relationships with staff at many establishments in Novi. His proactive practices help to prevent intoxicated people attempting to drive after drinking. Officer Bender was also honored as the Novi Police Officer of the Year in 2012. "I am extremely proud of the efforts of our law enforcement team to prevent drunk driving. Motorists who drive while under the influence represent a significant danger. This prestigious MADD award for the Choose Your Ride initiative and the recognition of Officer Bender acknowledge Novi's commitment to enforcing safe driving practices and dedication to the health and welfare of our community," said David Molloy, director of public safety/chief of police.



Bender

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Local horse lover pens 'true memoir'

Author also devoted to rescuing animals

By Brad Kadrich
Staff Writer

Since the first time she rode one of those mechanical horses outside a department store, Jo Anne Normile remembers falling in love with horses.

Her equine love affair started at first by traipsing to a riding stable to ride someone else's horse, then to having her own horse to ride at a stable, to finally owning enough land to have as many horses as she wanted.

She's ridden them, she's raced them — and now, for the second time, she's devoted her life to saving them. Normile, who 15 years ago founded CANTER, a rescue mission to save race horses, is the founder of Saving Baby Equine Charity, a nonprofit rescue aimed at saving horses of all breeds.

The charity came about while Normile, who has lived near North Territorial and Napier since 1984, was writing a book *Saving Baby: How One Woman's Love for a Racehorse Led to Her Redemption*, about her experiences in racing and with horses, in general.

"Horse rescue remains an integral part of my life," said Normile, who left CANTER in 2006 and started *Saving Baby* about 18 months ago. "The first one was strictly (saving) race horses and other breeds that needed help I referred to other rescues. (But) there were so many requests, I thought I didn't just want to write the book. I wanted it to have a purpose. I wanted it to help horses."

It's a love she started developing while growing up in Dearborn Heights. She'd collect those little rubber toy horses — a collection she has on her dresser to this day — and she'd ride those mechanical horses.

The minute she started earning money baby-sitting, Normile recalled, she'd trundle over to a riding stable to ride. After she got married

and had her two daughters, she'd take them as well. It wasn't until her mid-30s she realized what she was missing.

"I got to be 36 years old and thought, 'What have I always wanted in life that I don't have because, my goodness, my life is half over?'" she said with a laugh. "Immediately it popped into my mind — a horse."

She and her husband ended up moving just over the Plymouth Township border into Salem, to property in the Plymouth-Canton school district and with a Plymouth mailing address.

"We moved in 1984 so that I could get horses and fulfill my lifelong dream," Normile said. "So that's what we did."

Always a fan of the Kentucky Derby, Normile remembers being caught up in Secretariat's run to the Triple Crown in 1973. She got to visit Claiborne Farm 15 years later, when Secretariat was standing at stud. She got to get up close and touch him and have pictures taken with him.

"It was a turbulent time and Secretariat brought everybody together," Normile said. "To me, it was like seeing a movie star up close. It was such a moving experience."

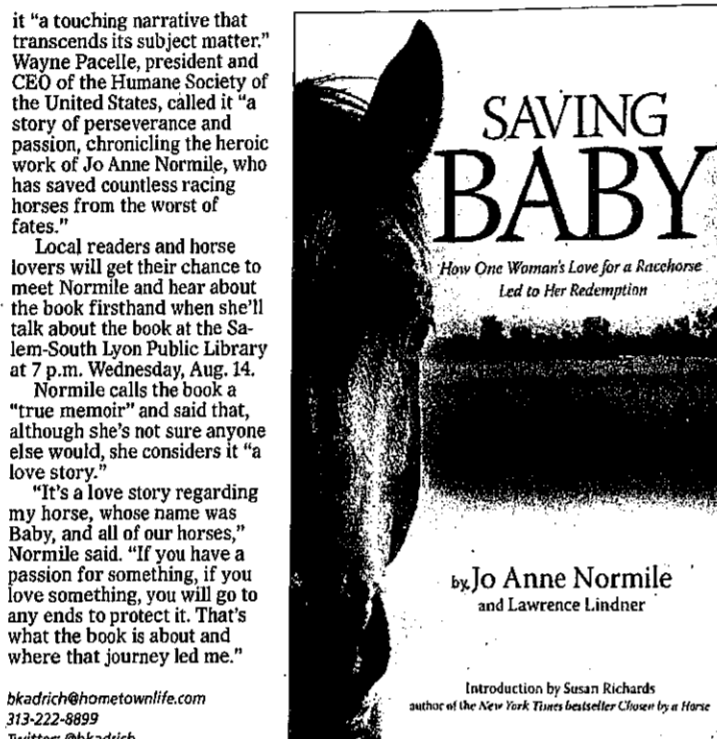
The Normiles eventually bred a horse to Secretariat's son and now have Secretariat's granddaughter (now 21 years old) living with them. "What could be more perfect than having a piece of Secretariat walking around in my back yard?" she said. "I wanted that ultimate souvenir."

And now she wants to tell the story of all she's done and all she's learned, about horses in general and horse racing in particular. It's about places and people and horses that readers would know, she said, because a lot of it focuses on when the couple got into horse racing and raced at Detroit Race Course.

The book, available at amazon.com, in Kindle and at Nicola's Books in Ann Arbor, earned a "Kirkus Star" from Kirkus Reviews, which called



Jo Anne Normile gives some love to, and gets some love from, Scarlet Secretary, a major character in her book and the granddaughter of Triple Crown winner Secretariat.



The author's book earned a "Kirkus Star" from Kirkus Reviews and high praise from the CEO of the Humane Society of the United States.

it "a touching narrative that transcends its subject matter." Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, called it "a story of perseverance and passion, chronicling the heroic work of Jo Anne Normile, who has saved countless racing horses from the worst of fates."

Local readers and horse lovers will get their chance to meet Normile and hear about the book firsthand when she'll talk about the book at the Salem-South Lyon Public Library at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14.

Normile calls the book a "true memoir" and said that, although she's not sure anyone else would, she considers it "a love story."

"It's a love story regarding my horse, whose name was Baby, and all of our horses," Normile said. "If you have a passion for something, if you love something, you will go to any ends to protect it. That's what the book is about and where that journey led me."

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Air Museum gets extension on bid to buy part of bomber plant

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Yankee Air Museum received very good news July 31 — an extension on the purchase of the former Willow Run Bomber Plant.

The museum will have an extra two months to raise the money it needs to buy 175,000 square feet of the bomber plant, where 8,600 B-24 Liberator Bombers were built during World War II.

"It truly is exciting that we have the extra two months," said Bob Catalano, who works in the museum's collections department. "Those extra months give us time to raise money."

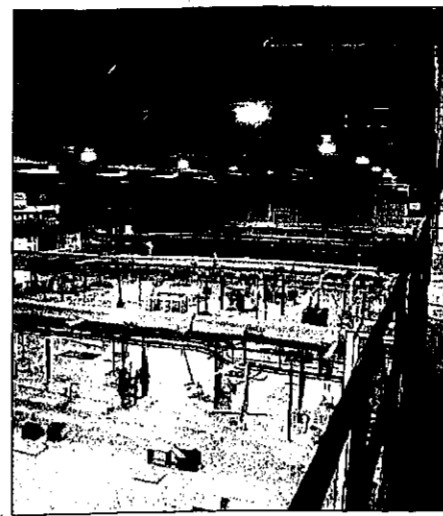
In April, the museum entered into an agreement with RACER (Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response) Trust to buy that area of the former GM Powertrain Plant where the aircraft were completed and then exited the plant for delivery to the government. The staff was aware a big announcement was coming, but Catalano thought "in my heart of hearts it was about a big donor."

The museum has been conducting a Save the Bomber Plant campaign and has raised \$4.5 million of the \$8 million needed to cover the purchase price — \$5 million — and enclose, secure and power up the area to eventually become the new museum.

Cause for optimism

The extension was announced by the Michigan Aerospace Foundation, Yankee Air Museum and RACER Trust, just a day before the original Aug. 1 deadline. The museum now has a 60-day extension.

Elliott P. Laws, RACER administrative trustee, said the success and momentum of the cam-



The Yankee Air Museum hopes to transform the interior of the East Bay into its new home.

aign is cause for optimism and warranted an extension. He praised the staff and supporters of the Yankee Air Museum for the tremendous job they have done with their campaign to raise the necessary funds.

"RACER has been supportive of the Yankee Air Museum effort and wanted to present every possible opportunity for the campaign to reach a successful conclusion," he said.

"We wish Yankee Air Museum success in its campaign and we will continue to support that effort consistent with the mission of the trust and its plans for the Willow Run plant."

Extending the deadline will not delay or disrupt RACER's work, including dismantling the building, Laws said.

Dennis Norton, the founder of Yankee Air Museum and president of the Michigan Aerospace Foundation, was grateful that the foundation and museum will be "able to continue working toward our goal of preserving a

portion of the former bomber plant to tell the Arsenal of Democracy story and how Americans, men and women, of all races, came together to not just build aircraft needed to win World War II, but to change the country forever."

"We've had a great response to our campaign," he said.

"So many people have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and generosity, and with a bit more time, I believe we will hit our target."

"We truly appreciate RACER Trust and everyone else's support for our mission" added Ray Hunter, chairman of the board of the Yankee Air Museum.

"It's incredible to see and hear from so many people who recognize the opportunity to honor and preserve a physical connection to that era."

Under one roof

If the "Save the Bomber Plant" campaign is successful, the Yankee Air Museum will move

See MUSEUM, Page A15

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UPDATES FROM CITY OF NOVI

The Wrecking Crew at library

The Novi Public Library is rolling out the red carpet at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, premiering *The Wrecking Crew*, a music documentary about L.A. session musicians who played on numerous hits in the '60s and early '70s. The film, directed by Denny Tedesco and rated PG, features hit records from the Beach Boys, Sonny and Cher, Frank Sinatra, the Monkees and many more.

Tedesco, whose father Tommy Tedesco was a guitarist in *The Wrecking Crew*, wanted to tell a story of his dad and his friends who helped create some of the most iconic sounds of the '60s. With many notable names such as Cher, Dick Clark, Glen Campbell, Brian Wilson and Nancy Sinatra all highlighted in this documentary, the film gives the audience a look back in time at the music industry.

This will be a night for all music-lovers, who will also get the opportunity to purchase film memorabilia and partake in a Q&A session with the director following the premiere. Tickets are \$10 per person with 50 percent benefiting the library. For more, visit www.wreckingcrewfilm.com.

Civilian pistol safety classes offered

The Novi Police Department will be offering a civilian pistol safety class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at the Novi Police Department Training Center located at 45125 W. 10 Mile. The course fulfills both the classroom and shooting requirements to obtain a Michigan concealed pistol license.

Registration forms are available online at cityofnovi.org and at the Novi Police Department. Completed registration forms and the \$200



course fee (cash or money order) may be returned to the Novi Police Department. Class size is limited, and all participants are subject to a criminal background check.

After lunch, participants will move to the Novi Firearms Training Center to complete the course. Students must bring their own equipment, including a personal handgun, 100 rounds of ammunition, safety glasses, shooter's earmuffs or ear plugs, a pen or pencil, a baseball cap and wear loose comfortable clothing to participate in the course. Participants must be 21 years old and do not have to be a Novi resident to attend.

For more information, visit cityofnovi.org or contact Sgt. Michael Warren at mwarren@cityofnovi.org or 248-921-9843.

Great Lakes Pastel Society to display work

The city of Novi has been selected to host the artwork of the Great Lakes Pastel Society in the Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery, 45175 10 Mile. The exhibit is on display through Sept. 26. The Great Lakes Pastel Society seeks to promote and increase the public awareness of the creative pastel paintings as a fine art medium. The juried exhibit will feature 50 works chosen from 173 entries. Most members of the society are Michigan residents; however, artists from California to Montana and New York are also members.

The Novi Civic Center

Atrium Gallery showcases works from local artists. The final exhibit of 2013 will be ArtsNovi in November. The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department is seeking artists for Novi Civic Center Atrium Gallery shows in 2014. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 5, 2014. Contact Scott A. Pratt, superintendent of recreation, at spratt@cityofnovi.org or visit cityofnovi.org to obtain an application.

Other opportunities for viewing public art displays in Novi include sculptures at Fuerst Park, JTC Community Sports Park and multiple installations at the Novi Public Library. To learn more about art initiatives in Novi, visit cityofnovi.org.

Explore yellow brick road

The city of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, with Wixom Parks and Recreation Department, is offering a group trip to see *Wicked the Musical* Aug. 17 at the Stranahan Theater in Toledo.

In *Wicked the Musical*, before a certain girl from Kansas arrives in Munchkin land, two girls meet in the Land of Oz. One born with emerald green skin is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. A classic story with a twist, learn how these two go to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good.

Tickets are \$99 for balcony level, \$109 for main floor. Seats are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fee includes motor coach and admission. Participants will board the motor coach at Meijer in Wixom at noon and return at approximately 6:15 p.m. Visit www.cityofnovi.org or the Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile.

India's Independence Day

Thousands gather in Novi to celebrate country's birthday

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Novi Saturday hosted India Day 2013, an all-day event Saturday celebrating India's 65th Independence Day. Held at the Suburban Collection Showplace, the event highlighted rich dance forms, arts and crafts, colorful clothing and jewelry and Indian cuisine. "This is by far the only mega-event attracting tens of thousands of Indians and Americans," said Ramesh Gudupuri, chair of India Day 2013. "Organizing an event of this magnitude is a huge task for me and all the other volunteers. However, we are able to pull it off successfully simply because of the tremendous support and hard work put in by the countless number of volunteers that you see all around here. ... This is a mini-India in Michigan!"

Gudupuri said the independence is a "golden moment" in history because of its unique non-violent approach.

"It is also a salute to our great leaders for their many sacrifices in the freedom struggle," he said. "Today, while we have integrated ourselves into the American mainstream quite efficiently, we cannot afford to forget our roots and heritage. India's rich culture and noble traditions have been our trademark and we are still a large, compassionate family."

The country is the seventh largest by area, second largest by population at 1.2 billion and most populous democracy in the world. India got its independence from the British on Aug. 15, 1947.

"Many of us Indians, who migrated to the U.S. and have adopted this country as ours, should feel quite at home in America," said Yash Pal Lakra, president of the India League of America, which is celebrating its 35th year. "Modern India's constitution is based on the Bill of Rights enshrined in the Constitution of the U.S. We are fortunate that we are the inheritors of most valued principles of equality, secularism and freedom of India."



A statue of Lord Ganesha, the Elephant God and one of the most revered, greets visitors entering Saturday's event as his blessings are invoked first on any auspicious occasion.



A wide variety of Indian art was available for purchase and perusal. ALL PHOTOS BY CAL STONE



The food lines were full all day as visitors dined on delicious Indian cuisine.



Those looking to purchase clothing had plenty of booths from which to select.



One of the most popular segments of India Day was the performance stage featuring traditional Indian dances, here performed by a group of youths.



Bracelets, necklaces, rings and other jewelry pieces drew many opportunities for bartering.

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Butterflies aren't showing up for Michigan summer

By Kristen Jordan Shamus
Gannett News Service

There aren't many among the lantana, the butterfly bushes or the milkweed plants in Joe Derek's Farmington Hills yard.

Butterflies are strikingly absent this year from his naturally landscaped property off 10 Mile, where he grows two acres of native plants known to draw the fluttering beauties.

"Normally, at this time of year, I'd see hundreds," said Derek, former naturalist for the city of Farmington Hills. "In my life, I've never seen a season where we're not seeing butterflies really of any kind."

They're missing from Diane Pruden's yard in Milford, too.



The American Painted Lady butterfly drinks some nectar. FOR DEREK

"It's just horrible," said Pruden, a monarch conservationist for the nonprofit group Monarch Watch. "I've got plants that should be covered with eggs and caterpillars right now and there are just none to be seen."

Butterfly enthusiasts say there's a dearth of butterflies in Michigan this year. Official data are still being collected by monitoring groups around the state, but anecdotally, at least, the

outlook is grim.

Hollie Ward, executive director of the Michigan Butterflies Project based in Jenison, near Grand Rapids, said she has seen disappointingly few monarchs this year, the type she studies most.

"We go out and are looking, looking, inspecting thoroughly," she said. "On a good day, we're looking at hundreds of milkweed stalks — every week, twice a week since early June. We have not seen a single egg or caterpillar."

Her group examines milkweed because it is the only plant monarchs use to lay their eggs; it's also a food source in their early days as caterpillars.

Ward is hopeful it'll get better later into the season, but she has her doubts.

"This year's cooler, wetter spring really didn't help," Ward said. "Couple that with last year's extremely hot, extremely dry weather and it's a terrible situation for monarchs."

Besides the weather,

part of the problem is development of prairies and grasslands, farming practices that have all but eliminated milkweed and other native plants from corn and soybean fields through the heartland, and suburban landscaping with nonnative plants. Combined, these factors have wiped out huge swaths of habitat that used to lure and feed these delicate insects.

Widespread use of pesticides — especially large-scale spraying for mosquitoes and gypsy moths — also kills caterpillars. Rampant use of herbicides in landscaping also contributes to the problem, destroying many native plants the butterflies need to survive.

Without enough of the right plants, the number of butterflies gracing the nation's gardens will continue to decline, says Jeffrey Glassberg, president of the North American Butterfly Association.

"Every single day, the number of butterflies decreases in North Amer-

ica," Glassberg said. "Every time someone takes a meadow and turns it into a parking lot, they are removing large numbers of butterflies from North America. And that happens, of course, every single day."

Although many enthusiasts are concerned about the lack of butterflies this year, Ashley Anne Wick, biological research director at the Kalamazoo Nature Center who heads up the Michigan Butterfly Network, says it's still too soon to sound the alarm bells.

"One year is not enough to really say anything definitively," Wick said. "I would come from a more hopeful standpoint that they'll rebound as long as people keep providing havens for them, nectar sources, host plants and planting native species on their lots."

"That's why we're starting the Michigan Butterfly Network to monitor these changes and catch the species on decline before they be-

come endangered. That way, we can see what habitat management changes we can make before the population declines too drastically."

Now in its first full year, the Michigan Butterfly Network is a program of the Kalamazoo Nature Center and is spreading beyond the western part of the state with the aim of taking a statewide butterfly census six times a year.

Among the vital changes that need to take place to help these fragile creatures rebound, experts agree, is introducing more butterfly-friendly native plants to neighborhoods, parks and even front porches.

"It's going to take a lot of work," Ward said. "There are some amazing strong advocates out there who work really hard, but it's going to take more than the advocates. Until people start seeing this in the mainstream media, and understanding what's happening, why that is and what they can do to help, there's little hope."

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Summer gala



A summer gala resulted in a total of \$144,000 being raised for Novi's Fox Run retirement community's Benevolent Care Fund. More than 500 people attended the Fine Vintage themed gala, which featured Fox Run's own bottled and labeled wine, grape arbors and vine décor, wine tasting room and casino. The Rick Lieder band, Tommy James Band and multimedia musical program by Pierre Francanzala provided the evening's entertainment. Cuisine included a shrimp bar and a filet and crab cake entrée. Pictured, a Fox Run resident dances with Dining Services student workers during the gala.

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A tragic gas explosion happened in Royal Oak earlier this year as a result of former employees disobeying procedural requirements and failing to meet our expectations for making safety a top priority. Because of the Royal Oak accident, Consumers Energy has been fined by the Michigan Public Service Commission. We accept responsibility, we accept the fine, and we will move forward.

Consumers Energy is sincerely sorry the Royal Oak accident happened. Our investigation showed some employees did not follow company gas operations policies and procedures. Those individuals no longer work for our company.

We are sorry we let you down and failed to meet your and our expectations. We have reinforced our training and policy education for all employees who work on our natural gas system. We have increased our annual investment to update our gas distribution system by over \$200 million, an investment designed to help protect public health and safety. And we are doing everything we can to avoid a tragic event of this nature from happening again in the future.

In addition, Consumers Energy will contribute \$1 million of its money to create a fund available to victims of natural gas incidents to assist in providing immediate everyday necessities, as well as provide funding for a safety study and safety training.

Consumers Energy has been in the energy business for more than 125 years and the integrity of our gas system makes us one of the top-performing companies in the country. We want to reassure our customers that Consumers Energy puts safety at the heart of everything we do. We know lives depend on it.

Our goal as part of our promise to Michigan is to keep you safe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provide safe, reliable gas service at affordable prices. We work every single day to achieve that goal. You deserve nothing less.

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It's Harvest Time - Michigan Tomatoes Are Here!
 Join us Saturday, August 17 to meet one of our local farmers from Iott Farms. Katrina will be here 9am-3pm, speaking about the benefits of locally grown produce and sampling her prized tomatoes.
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\$3.29 lb	\$6.99 lb	\$7.99 lb	99¢ lb	NY Strips or Delmonico Steaks \$12.99 lb	\$9.99 lb	\$8.99 lb	\$8.99 lb	\$3.99 ea	\$7.99 lb	\$8.99 lb

Boar's Head Black Forest Ham	Dietz & Watson Hard Salami	Joe's Signature Turkey Pastrami	Kretschmar Braunschweiger Liver Sausage	Oldtime Colby or Colby Jack Cheese
\$6.99 lb	\$5.99 lb	\$5.99 lb	\$5.49 lb	\$4.49 lb
Boar's Head Blazing Buffalo Chicken	Dietz & Watson Gourmet Lite Turkey	Joe's Signature Corned Beef	Kretschmar Low Sodium Ham	Cabot Cheddar Cheese
\$7.49 lb	\$6.99 lb	\$8.99 lb	\$4.99 lb	\$4.99 lb
Boar's Head Ovensgold Turkey	Dietz & Watson Honey Tavern Ham	Hoffman's Hard Salami	Kretschmar Garlic Herb Chicken	Boar's Head Yellow & White Vermont Cheddar Cheese
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SPORTS



Novi Wildcat runningback Jeff Baker (right) takes a handoff Aug. 12 as the varsity team begins practice for its fall season. JOHN HEIDER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fall practice under way

Four significant rules changes announced for high school football

By Sam Eggleston
 Correspondent

The opening week of fall sports kicked off this week as football teams across the state of Michigan began practice on Monday, followed by all other sports just two days later. This year, across the state, there are expected to be approximately 100,000 student-athletes participating in the eight Michigan High School Athletic Association-regulated fall sports.

Football got the early jump on other sports due to regulations surrounding

automatic first down if against the defense, or does it result in a loss of down if against the offense. Both are a 15-yard mark off from the previous spot, and the down is replayed except when the penalty against the defense results in a first down.

If a player's helmet comes off during a play, it is illegal participation and a 15-yard penalty if that player continues to participate in a play; and a personal foul and a 15-yard penalty if a player from the opposing team initiates contact with a player whose helmet has come off.

On a catch, an airborne receiver whose forward progress is stopped

MHSAA announces drop in high school sports participation

Decrease associated with decline in school enrollments

By Sam Eggleston
 Correspondent

Across Michigan, there has been a trend toward declining participation in high school sports, but the Michigan High School Athletics Association points out that the trend follows a recent decline in school enrollment.

During the last school year, the MHSAA counted 293,810 participants in all the sports for which it holds postseason tournaments. That registers a 1.2-percent decrease from the season before. During that same time frame, however, school enrollment numbers dipped 1.1 percent, and the year prior to that they fell 1.5 percent.

Between the girls and boys sports teams, the drop in participation was nearly equal. The girls saw a 1.3 percent drop while the boys experienced a 1.1 percent, compared to a drop in girls' enrollment numbers of 1.4 percent and boys of 0.8 percent.

Some sports have suffered more than others. Girls basketball has seen the largest drop, falling for the seventh straight year to 16,550 participants. According to the MHSAA, it's the lowest number of girls cagers in the state since records were first kept in 1991-92.

"The girls basketball total has decreased 13.5 percent since a U.S. District Court decision led to the switching of girls basketball season from fall to winter beginning in 2007-08," said the MHSAA report. "Girls enrollment during that time has fallen 9.7 percent."

Additionally, continued declines were noted in girls and boys golf and girls and boys tennis.

In total, 17 sports had participation drops over the past season, including football, which at 41,507 athletes registered the lowest number since 1995-96. But not all sports have been suffering. In total, 11 sports had increases in participation with four of them set-

Total Performance, Novi help send equipment to new home

Highland Park High School football team will also get custom strength and conditioning program

By Sam Eggleston
 Correspondent

When Total Performance director Jim Kielbaso stepped foot into the weight room at Highland Park High School, he couldn't believe there were athletic teams attempting to

and conditioning capabilities as the schools they competed against.

Thankfully, Kielbaso knew of a school that had some equipment to spare. "Novi High School was upgrading their equipment and I knew they were selling everything that was being replaced," said Kielbaso, who manages the strength and conditioning program for the Wildcats.

The turnout was pretty impressive, with the entire football team from Novi coming to participate, along with many members of the Novi baseball team and even some players from Northville.

"They really helped spread the word out to everyone," said Kielbaso. "What's more is that several

of a school that had some equipment to spare. "Novi High School was upgrading their equipment and I knew they were selling everything that was being replaced," said Kielbaso, who manages the strength and conditioning program for the Wildcats.

Novi Ice Arena hosting a celebration for its 15th birthday Aug. 17

The Novi Ice Arena (42400 Nick Lidstrom Drive) is hosting a customer appreciation open house from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17, to celebrate the arena's 15th birthday with loads of free things for families and local residents to stop in and enjoy:

- Free sticks and pucks from 7:30-8:50 a.m., 9-10:20 a.m. and 1:30-2:50 p.m.
- Figure skating, synchronized skating and ice dance exhibition (featuring Olympic-bound ice dancing teams) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:50 p.m.
- Free open skating from 3:50-5:20 p.m.
- Try hockey for free clinic from 2:30-3:20 p.m. (must pre-register)

Try skating for free clinic from 1:30-2:20 p.m. (must pre-register)

Birthday ceremony featuring Novi Mayor Pro Tem Dave Staudt at 1 p.m. (cake and ice cream will be served until it runs out)

Weather permitting, the fun will carry over outside the ice rink as well with a bounce house, hockey shot games for the kids and live music with The Phoenix Theory. And if you work up an appetite, help yourself to a free hot dog at the concessions stand from noon to 2 p.m.

There will also be information available on all fall programming, special raffle prizes, and the in-house pro shop, HockeyDeals.com, will also be offering special prices during this event.

After the festivities, come back for the disco skate jams that night from 8-9:50 p.m. - disco-themed opening skating with a disc jockey and club lighting.

Admission for this event is \$7 (discount coupons will be available during the customer appreciation day events or if you come dressed in your best disco apparel).

Novi Ice Arena is located at 42400 Nick Lidstrom; phone: 248-347-1010 or visit www.novi-icearena.com.

Novi Ice Arena is located at 42400 Nick Lidstrom; phone: 248-347-1010 or visit www.novi-icearena.com.



Olympics-bound ice dancers will be part of the Novi Ice Arena's celebration.

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MHSAA

cross country both increased for the fourth straight season. The sports experiencing the most growth was boys swimming...

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Waza: 19 compete in Junior Olympics meet

Waza Track Club completed its outdoor track season at the AAU Junior Olympics National Championship Track meet...



Waza Track Club members (bottom, from left) Bo Anderson, Brooklyn Durfield, Kellen Fife, Bella Haynes, Kyle Samluk and Matthew Brown...

- Elizabeth Pall (12, Novi) - Turbo Javelin - 40'10" 26th Place
Jordan Weekley (12, Farmington Hills) - Discus - 63'6" - 21st Place...

3000 meters with a time of 9:28.93. While the following athletes did not earn medals or All-America status...

7th. Kyle Samluk (12, New Hudson) - Phenomenal performance - 1500m improved PR from 66th to 59th...

proved by over 16', improved rank from 32nd to 19th. Marisa Sailus (15, Commerce Township) - 3000m PR improved qualifying mark by over 40 seconds...

Complete team results
Melanie McDowell (12, Novi) - Turbo Javelin - 25th Place - 40'11" 1500M - 5:43.33 - 37th Place

Runners-up



The 2013 KVBSA Advanced Harwell Division Novi Heat Black team shows its second-place league trophies. Pictured (front, from left) are Michael Jensen, Matthew Halas and Brendan Britz...

All-State



Three of Northville's U13 Broncos, Jack Sargent (from left), Matt Stinebiser and Johnny Lobbia, participated in the USSSA All-State Team tournament...

World Series champs



The U13 Broncos culminated an incredible baseball season by taking the 2013 USSSA AA World Series Title in Canton. The Broncos finished 9-1 on the weekend...

Work pays off



Gara McCliment, a fifth-grader at Hickory Woods Elementary, has been hard at work all summer training for the Michigan Diving State Championships...

Brazil-bound

Kenyon College sophomore Meredith Williams (a Northville High School graduate) and senior Maureen Hirt will wrap up their summer schedules as members of the USA D-3 Women's Basketball Team...

