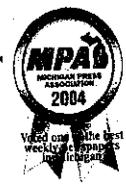


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Novi News



Your hometown newspaper serving Novi and the Lakes area for over 48 years

Thursday, January 27, 2005
Volume 49 Number 35

hometownlife.com

50¢

Novi, Michigan

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SPECIAL SECTION

Health & Fitness

This section features stories on quitting smoking, alternative health treatments, shoveling snow as well as info on the new dietary guidelines, removing tattoos and getting started in an exercise program.

INSIDE



Second-hand savings
Second-hand shops like Nancy Solomon's Smart Chicks' Consignment provide great buys for savvy shoppers.
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OBITUARY

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State of the City

■ Future looks bright, despite fewer dollars

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Last year was an exciting year for Novi, with many new businesses coming to the city. So, what's in store for 2005? Mayor Lou Csordas, in his Jan. 18 State of the City Address, noted that the Novi Expo Center will open, and

Providence Hospital will break ground on its 200-bed, \$224 million expansion project at Beck Road and Grand River Avenue.

Catholic Central High School for boys will begin construction at Wixom Road and Grand River Avenue, and improvements will be completed at Novi High School.

The I-96/Beck Road interchange is scheduled to be completed.

Hummer of Novi dealership will break ground at Grand

continued on page 3

■ Roads were improved; Novi keeps growing

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

"It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the state of the city is excellent," said Mayor Lou Csordas at the Jan. 18 State of the City Address.

And, after a year like 2004, why wouldn't it be?

After a tribute to Dr. Emmett

Lippe, retiring superintendent of the Novi Community School District, and a rousing performance by the Novi High School cheerleaders, the Mayor outlined the year's accomplishments last week.

The event at the Hotel Baronette was hosted by the Novi Chamber of Commerce and included a four-minute video about Novi, "It's All Here," produced by the staff at Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission Studios.

Csordas said Novi added 253

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Photo courtesy of City of Novi

In his State of the City address, Mayor Lou Csordas (right) gave special recognition to Emmett Lippe, who is retiring as superintendent of Novi Community Schools at the end of this school year.

Retiring schools super honored

■ Lippe has served Novi for more than a decade

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Lou Csordas paid homage to one of Novi's leaders

Jan. 18 prior to his State of the City Address by honoring Dr. Emmett Lippe, retiring superintendent of the Novi Community School District.

Lippe will retire this summer from the top post in Novi education.

"Emmett doesn't know that he was doing to up here today. That's OK. It's more fun that way," Csordas said.

Csordas complimented Lippe on the wonderful job that he has

done for the Novi school system.

"We wanted to take some time to thank him for all he has done," Csordas said.

He noted that Lippe is the son of a Methodist minister from a small town in Kansas and that Lippe's high school graduating class had only about a dozen students.

In a career that spans 40 years, Lippe started as a sixth grade teacher in Huntington,

Ind., and later served as superintendent of schools in Tekonsha, Mich., near Marshall.

Csordas noted that since 1992, the district has grown by about 2000 students from 4,238 to 6,167. Student achievement has been quite remarkable under his leadership, Csordas said.

"Over 95 percent of the graduates of Novi High School attend college," he said. In

continued on page 3

Snively pleads guilty to trading scheme

■ Broker's home will be auctioned to offset millions

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

After allegedly running a

scheme netting nearly \$6.3 million from 1,400 investors, broker Todd Snively, 42, of Northville Township pled guilty last week to mail fraud.

Snively, who for about eight months operated Internet trading at a Novi-based trading group, made his plea after Jan. 18 after being arraigned before U.S. District Judge John C. O'Meara in

His sentencing is scheduled for 10 a.m. on May 25, according to U.S. attorney's office representative Sandra Palazzolo.

Snively's township home, located in the Crestwood Manor subdivision in the 17500 block of Rolling Woods Circle, will be sold in a public auction by the U.S. Marshal to offset more than \$2.1 million still owed.

The U.S. Attorney for the

Eastern District of Michigan in March 2002 seized another \$4.6 million in funds frozen by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Extra funds went towards related penalties.

Snively's alleged scam, which court documents say spanned June 2001 to February 2002, occurred at Novi-based

continued on page 4

Cassis explores bid for governor

■ State senator from Novi one of 3 considering

By Cal Stone
EDITOR

Novi may have the strongest one-two punch in the state's political arena if Nancy Cassis becomes Michigan's next governor — that's if she decides to run for the seat in the 2006 election.

"I was encouraged to explore running for governor after a poll from Mitchell Communications after the November 2004 election showed the governor's support had sunk below 50 percent," said Cassis.

The legislator said when voters were informed of her tax reform record, 38 percent support her compared to 44 percent for the Democratic governor.

"This shows Governor Granholm is beatable," said Cassis, "and as a result, Republican leaders have encouraged me to possibly run."

Fellow party member State Rep. Craig DeRoche, also of Novi, was recently sworn in as the new Speaker of the House.

Rumors of Cassis entering the race began last week when Gongwer News Service, Inc. published an online (www.gongwer.com) article stating that Cassis and state Sen. Valde Garcia (Howell) were both "pondering" a run for the governorship.

Cassis served the end of Bill Bullard's term as state representative in 1996, a position she held for six years before being elected senator in 2002. With term limits, Cassis could only serve one more term as senator. The deadline to file for the November 2006 election, which will include senator and governor races, is May 2006.

A native of New York, Cassis

continued on page 2

CASSIS LAND

Senator Nancy Cassis was elected to represent the citizens of the 15th Senate District in November 2002. Her district encompasses western Oakland County including Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Rose, West Bloomfield and White Lake townships; the cities of Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Orchard Lake Village and Wixom; the Village of Wolverine Lake; and the Oakland portion of the city of Northville.

Family welcomes country superstar into their home

■ Resident of Novi wins party featuring Clint Black

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Country western music star Clint Black sitting in your kitchen — drinking a beer, eating dinner, talking about his life and then performing live in your basement.

It may sound like a fantasy to a fan, but it happened Sunday to 51-

year-old Novi resident Mike Savickas, wife, Rose Ann, and family.

By the luck of the draw, the Savickases won a sweepstakes contest sponsored by Proctor & Gamble, manufacturer of heartburn medication Prilosec OTC, to invite 50 people to an "Ultimate Home Tailgating Party."

The Ford Motor Company executive, who trains dealerships on new vehicles, was selected from thousands of entries, according to Joyce Deleon, assistant brand manager, Prilosec OTC, Proctor & Gamble in Cincinnati.

Mike Savickas and the crowd appeared live on national TV with

Black on CBS Sports' NFL Today pre-game show before the showdown between the New England Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers on Conference Championship Sunday.

Savickas saw an ad for the sweepstakes in U.S.A. Today and entered the contest online.

"What I liked about it was the fact that it was Clint Black performing in your home and a catered party for 50 people," he said. "How can you ask for anything better?" Savickas said.

He entered the contest in November 2004 and learned early



Photo by Sam Eggeston

Clint Black dons a cowboy hat and grabs a brew while hanging out with the Savickases in Novi Sunday afternoon.

continued on page 2

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Cassis explores bid for governor

continued from front page

moved to Michigan in 1968 after attending Ohio University. She worked as a teacher and school psychologist for 19 years and served nine years on the Novi City Council.

"My strengths are my background," said Cassis. "It's a unique combination of being an educator and how as a leader in state finance, reducing the tax burden on residents and businesses."

Cassis prides herself on her civic involvement, from grass roots to the senate. After attending the Presidential Inaugural in Washington, D.C., last Thursday, she was back at it Monday, meeting in Wixom with officials from the village, township and city to get their input on what their needs are and to keep in touch," she said.

Statewide, the need is money and fixing a budget that has been bleeding red. The loss of jobs and competitive status for the past few years are major concerns for Cassis.

"I think we're possibly going in the wrong direction or maybe backwards," she said. "The governor has had some missteps and mismanagement."

Cassis referenced Granholm's large committees - 120 to work on Detroit's ailing schools and 72 economic advisers - as hindrances to getting results.

"If you're going to run the state

by committee," said Cassis, "we're not going to get anything done. I think we need bold leadership. We certainly need a Republican leader."

Cassis wouldn't comment on Garcia or another candidate, state Rep. Jack Hoogendyk (Portage), other than to say that she was pleased Republican candidates are putting their names out there.

"So many seem to be running away instead of toward it," she said. "It's a tremendous undertaking of time, resources, energy, commitment and focus. Whoever does come forward needs to know that."

Although Cassis said she has been getting "a lot of good feedback" regarding her potential candidacy, she said she's waiting to hear the governor's state of the state message and budget preferences in the next two and half weeks.

Granholm has not officially announced that she'll run for reelection, but Cassis said "all indications are yes."

For Cassis, the process unfolds in several steps. She's already met with key Republican leaders who have urged her to consider running. The next move is to form an exploratory committee.

"Then you make yourself available everywhere, start fielding questions and knocking on doors," Cassis said. "But we're still talking and taking it one step at a time."

"Then there's the Big Four - Teri Lynn Land (Michigan secretary of state), Mike Rogers (Congressman), Candice Miller (Congresswoman) and Mike Cox (Michigan attorney general) - but nobody expects them to run because they'd have to give up a safe seat to run for governor."

Regardless of who ends up running, Ballenger said the Republicans have to get in gear not only for governor but for U.S. Senate.

"I don't blame anyone for saying, 'Why not me,'" said Ballenger. "True, if you have nothing else to offer, you've got to have somebody by default, but that's just not going to happen."

The political pundit put Cassis in the same boat with state Sen. Mike Garcia and state Rep. Jack Hoogendyk. He said there are stronger candidates - David Brandon, chairman/CEO of Domino's Pizza; Dick DeVos; and Michael Bouchard, Oakland County Sheriff.

"Once they elect their new chairman, Saul Anuzis, the odds-on favorite - you're going to see some things start to get worked out."

Anuzis, a businessman from downriver Wayne County, currently lives on the west side of Lansing. He is the former chief of staff for Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus

CASSIS DETAILS

- Chair - Senate Finance Committee
- Chair - Senate Republican Policy Committee
- Co-Chair - Tax Restructuring Work Group
- Vice-Chair - Senate Education Committee
- Member - Senate Government Operations and Technology and Energy Committees, as well as the Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness
- House of Representatives 1996-2002
- Novi City Council 1985-93 and 1995-96
- B.A., Ohio University, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa
- M.S. and Ed.S., University of Michigan
- Teacher - Ohio Public Schools 1966-68
- School psychologist - Novi Community Schools 1980-96
- Married to Victor Cassis 15 years
- Seven children, eight grandchildren (one on the way)
- Member - St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Livonia



Clint Black and friends get ready for Sunday's football game between New England and Pittsburgh.

Family welcomes country superstar into their home

continued from front page

This month that he had won the grand prize.

The idea behind the promotional event is that tailgating and heartburn medication go together like chili and onions. In other words, while Prosecco OTC, you can party hearty and not have to pay the price.

The family also won a 61-inch Sony XBR Plasma HDTV and DVD Dream System; a Coleman 6000 Propane Grill, party cooler and other party accessories; and a \$1,000 party, including Detroit Lions clothing and a helmet signed by Black.

The party was catered by 2 Unique of Bloomfield Hills.

Not only did the event give the Savickases an opportunity to host the superstar in their home, but it also turned into a family reunion.

Rose Ann's five sisters and three brothers were on hand, and Mike's family was there, too.

"I got the call, and I said, 'I'm going,'" said Rose Ann's sister, Angie Antaya of Phoenix. "I left 80-degree weather for this."

The local residents is obviously a fan of Black's.

"I've followed him throughout

his career. I think he's great," Mike Savickas said.

Matt Malyn, director of communications, WWS-TV, Channel 62, the local CBS affiliate, said the promotion was a network success.

"We had huge ratings for the pre-game show as well as the game," he said.

Savickas said one of the highlights of Black's visit was when the two had about a half hour to just hang out together.

"You don't ever get that one-on-one time with a celebrity," Savickas said.

"I just want to thank the makers of Prosecco OTC for allowing me to invite 50 of my friends and family to this Ultimate Home Tailgating Party - something I would have never dreamed about," he said.

"Thank you, Prosecco. You made my year."

And to anyone who was even remotely interested in the game, the Patriots won 41-27.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecom.net.

Political pundit cautious

By Cal Stone

The list of possible candidates making a bid for Michigan's governor seat is up around 10 currently, but it won't be until after the Republicans hold their state convention in Grand Rapids next week that a clearer picture will emerge, according to Bill Ballenger.

Until then, Ballenger, who runs the political Web site www.michiganpolitics.com, said it's just speculation.

"Once they elect their new chairman, Saul Anuzis, the odds-on favorite - you're going to see some things start to get worked out."

Anuzis, a businessman from downriver Wayne County, currently lives on the west side of Lansing. He is the former chief of staff for Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus

State of the City

Future looks bright, despite fewer dollars

continued from front page

River Avenue and Meadowbrook. Tequila Rain and the bowling lounge at Lucky's will open at Fountain Walk.

Staples office supply store is coming to West Market Square, Columbia Center, a 120,000-square-foot office building at Twelve Mile and Hagerway, will begin construction in 2005.

The Mayor said Novi is considering a regional shopping center with Twelve Oaks, West Oaks, West Oaks II and Fountain Walk, which doesn't even include Town Center and Main Street shopping.

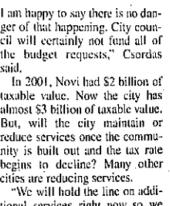
"If you can't find it in Novi, you just don't need it," he said.

"We maintain a general fund budget surplus of 12 percent. In times when other municipalities are struggling, Novi's financial position remains strong as evidenced by the bond ratings that the city receives from Standard and Poors (AA-) and Moody's (A2) - both very high," Cordas said.

The agencies used the city's position as a major asset center, the strong tax base, high-income levels and the city's sound financial position as the rationale for the high ratings, Cordas said.

He noted that using the city's current budget model, revenue will outpace expenditures until 2014. This means there will not be enough funding for all items currently in the capital improvements plan.

"If we fund all departmental budget requests, the fiscal analysis model forecasts expenditures exceeding revenues by approximately \$1.4 million in 2006 and \$9 million in 2015. Looking at these numbers, the city could be at a \$40 million deficit by 2015. But,



Lou Cordas Mayor of Novi

"By addressing the issues in a non-emotional business like manner and working with the developers, we will grow and continue to be the envy of southeast Michigan."

Roads were improved; Novi keeps growing

continued from front page

acres of parkland in 2004 for a total of 894 acres. This is impressive, considering neighbors Farmington Hills has 520 acres, Rochester Hills 500 acres, Troy 650 acres, and Canton Township 703 acres.

"Not on my watch, but this is an option for the future," Cordas said. "Should a city income tax be considered?"

"Over my dead body. Job killer! Growth killer!" Cordas said.

The cost of retirement benefits is crippling cities and companies across the country. City employees' contributions will need to increase to be reduced, according to the Mayor.

"In Novi, we are taking small but positive steps in this direction," he said.

Cordas said although challenges lie ahead, Novi's future continues to look bright.

"By addressing the issues in a non-emotional business like manner and working with the developers, we will grow and continue to be the envy of southeast Michigan," he said.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecom.net.

• Thru Road from Ten Mile Road to Grand River Avenue, Meadowbrook Road from Grand River Avenue to Twelve Mile Road.

• South Lake Drive along Walled Lake and

• A record \$2.8 million in neighborhood roadway resurfacing.

The Mayor noted that Twelve Mile Road was opened east of Beck in time for the holiday shopping season. The intersection at Ten Mile and Novi Road is 50 percent complete, with the project to be completed later this year.

"We leveraged \$18 million in Novi tax dollars to \$70 million in outside funding for our roads," Cordas said.

The Mayor noted that city council also set new standards for road construction in 2004. "From now on you have to use concrete rather than rocks and stones that are glued together with no drainage capability," he said.

Despite reduced state shared revenue, which means the city has received 14.6 percent of the city's budget or \$58,000 less since fiscal year 2001-2002, Novi's financial picture looks good, the Mayor said.

Novi's millage rate has not increased since 1999. Novi is the sixth lowest taxed city in Oakland County.

A 19-year lawsuit involving property on the northwest side of the city was resolved in the Purgon case, and the final site plan for Liberty Park was approved, following the Sandstone lawsuit settlement in 2002.

"If you don't think Novi is a popular city, consider that people camped out for days to be the first to purchase a home in Liberty Park," Cordas said.

The city removed 49 percent of diseased street and park trees killed by the Emerald Ash Borer insect. And the '50s Festival was a big hit with its old name back and a new venue - Fountain Walk - for the event.

Housing starts in 2004 were high with 328 new homes. In fact, Novi was recently named No. 2 in the state for new commercial development projects with 29. The median home value is \$240,000, and the median income is \$73,000.

Novi's current population is 53,000 in 19,000 households and is expected to grow to 72,000 by 2015, according to the Mayor. Single family dwellings represent 52.4 percent, townhomes 13.5 percent, apartments 25.7 percent and mobile homes 8.4 percent.

"Novi has the largest number of mobile homes in Oakland County at 1,942, which I'd like to see change. These residents pay only \$36 a year to the city," he said.

Finally, the largest segment of the population is age 35 to 64, and Novi's unemployment rate is only 1.7 percent.

HEAR IT AGAIN

Homeowner Association Breakfast
About 100 representatives from local homeowner associations will attend the City of Novi Homeowner Association Breakfast from 9-11 a.m. this Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Civic Center. The public is invited to come hear a condensed version of Mayor Lou Cordas' State of the City Address at 10 a.m. The address will also be broadcast on Channel 13 throughout the month of February.

City honors Lippe for contributions

continued from front page

2004, 244 seniors received 854 scholarships totaling more than \$5 million, according to the Mayor.

Cordas presented Lippe with a plaque with the key to the city on it in recognition of his years of service to the community.

"I appreciate this award you've given me in recognition of service. You did have one fact wrong. The size of my graduating class was not 12 - it was 13," Lippe said.

Lippe told the audience that he recently took his wife to see the little town he grew up in not too long ago, and that she couldn't believe how small it was.

"There's probably only about 200 people in the city and maybe 5,000 people in whole county. So,

as you say, it's been a long trip from that little town to the city of Novi. Never in my wildest imagination would I imagine that I'd be superintendent of the caliber of Novi schools and the Novi community," Lippe said.

He added: "It's only a great community because of the kinds of folks who live in the community, the business leaders you have here today, the Chamber of Commerce, the parents, and the children that we educate every day at Novi schools. It's only for those reasons that we have the accomplishments that we have."

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecom.net.

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Published Each Thursday

By The Novi News

104 W. Main Street

Northville, Michigan 48167

Periodical

At Northville, Michigan

Subscription Rates:

Inside Counties \$26 one year home delivery. \$35 one year mail delivery. Outside Counties (in Michigan) are \$40 per year, prepaid. Out of state, \$50 per year.

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COMMUNITY

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.homecomm.net

Government probe into media transaction is nothing unusual

A federal Justice Department investigation into media giant Gannett Co.'s proposed purchase of the company that owns the Novi News is neither unusual nor unexpected, according to officials of HomeTown Communications Network.

"This is standard practice and nothing new," stated to Richard Agninan, president and CEO of HomeTown Communications Network, Inc. "The Justice Department has approved many similar transactions in the past in which a daily newspaper acquired suburban weeklies in the same market."

The Livonia-based HomeTown Communication Network is the parent company of the Howell-based HomeTown Newspapers, which, in addition to the Novi News, also publishes the Green Sheet, weeklies in Northville, Milford and South Lyon, and a Howell-based daily newspaper.

Last year, Gannett announced

it was purchasing the corporation from Phil Power, the Ann Arbor resident who has built a Midwest community newspaper company that publishes the daily and 62 weekly and twice-weekly newspapers with a combined circulation of more than 740,000 in Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky.

Terms of the sale were not released, but annual revenues for the company were estimated at about \$86 million.

A story in Monday's Wall Street Journal about the Justice probe cited unnamed sources that said the asking price for the sale was \$150 million.

HomeTown officials said they have been fully cooperating with the investigation.

"Although they expected a quicker review, they are still optimistic that the sale will be approved."

"I'm advised that it's normal practice," said Agninan. "When do they conclude their investigation? Your guess is as good as mine."

According to the Journal, investigators are looking more closely at newspaper sales than in the past.

In the HomeTown sale, it's likely they are looking at Lansing and Cincinnati, where Gannett owns dailies and HomeTown publishes suburban weeklies, as well as the Detroit area, where Gannett publishes the Detroit News and HomeTown publishes the twice-weekly Observer & Eclectic newspapers.

Agninan noted that in the past, the Justice Department has approved sales of suburban weeklies to dailies in Cleveland, St. Louis, Baltimore and Milwaukee. In a note to the company's 780 employees this week — including 150 who work for HomeTown — Agninan urged them to continue publishing some of the best community newspapers in the country.



Photo by Al Potkin

Rotary relief effort

Members of the Novi Rotary Club collected funds for the tsunami relief effort on Jan. 15 at the intersections of Grand River Avenue and Novi Road and Ten Mile and Meadowbrook roads. The group raised \$2,650 that day, and has gathered over \$7,300 for the cause. Pictured are Rotarians Wayne Bullen (left) and Gary Kelber (right) along with Kelber's sons Scott and Nathan. See related story on page 17.

ARTrageous

Local's work on display at arts fundraiser

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi resident Matthew Keiser will be one of the featured artists at a fund-raiser for an annual arts education this Saturday in Southfield.

At 7:30 p.m. Jan. 29, the American Center Building, 27777 Franklin Rd., will be transformed into an entertainment club, as the Fanclub Arts Foundation



Matt Keiser

presents ARTrageous 2005.

The event will feature live entertainment, fashion, art and food. Proceeds from the event will support Fanclub's mission of putting arts education within everyone's reach.

Fanclub has granted more than \$400,000 toward the creation of arts programs in low and middle-income areas.

The event begins with a strolling dinner prepared by 20 metro Detroit area restaurants, open bars and a wine tasting by Papa Joe's Market.

Diners can view works by local artists and Fanclub grant recipients. Pieces will include graphic art, photography, handbags and jewelry, with select items available to purchase.

Guests can bid on dining, cultural and entertainment packages during a live auction, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Fanclub.

A fashion show, new this year, will include wearable art by students from Wayne State University's fashion merchandising department and the International Academy of Design and Technology.

Patrons can enjoy desserts, music by the soulful band Grupo Alegre, percussionist Jared Sykes and Inerphonic and dancers from Suzette's Masters of Dance of Shelby Township.

Cost to attend is \$100, which includes dinner, drinks and entertainment. To purchase tickets, call the Fanclub Arts Foundation at (248) 584-4150. For more information, visit

www.fanclubarts.com.

Artist's background

Keiser, 34, a Walled Lake Central graduate, attended classes at several local colleges but considers himself self-taught.

"I actually fell college art classes were a detriment to me. Teachers at the college level often want students to copy them rather than have them forge out their own style. My style is pretty unique," he said.

Keiser, who describes his work as "somewhere between illustration and stage prop," said a friend contacted him about participating in the event.

"I'm looking forward to working the show on Jan. 29 as well as working with them in the future. The organization only asks for 10 percent of the proceeds of my sales to go to the charity, and I'm more than happy to help them," he said.

Keiser's work can be viewed online at www.mathewkeiser.com. Contact him at m.keiser@sbcglobal.net or at (248) 202-9148.

"Most of the customers I work with want an original. If a piece has already been sold, I'll make a new piece or something similar. If they want a print, I'll make it the size they want and select a suitable frame if they wish," Keiser said.

Keiser works at home but would like to work in a local frame shop.

"I have always been interested in art since I was a kid and was encouraged by my parents. I found that it was something I could show off with. Other people started labeling me as an artist, and before you know it, you're an artist!" he said.

Keiser loves his career.

"There's nothing like waking up and saying, 'What am I going to create today?'" It's almost like being an artistic inventor," he said.

He uses acrylics on canvas but also scans sketches into a computer, then colors them and adds effects. He recently did a piece for a new condominium complex, The 5th, an 18-story skyscraper in Royal Oak.

"They wanted something that showcased the modern design of the building," Keiser said.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@ht.homecomm.net.



Artist Matt Keiser says his unique style is "somewhere between illustration and stage prop."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Blood drive set for Feb. 2

The American Red Cross encourages area residents to donate "the gift of life" at a community-wide blood drive slated from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2, in Conference Rooms A and B of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road.

To make an appointment, please call Gerry Stipp, American Red Cross volunteer, at (248) 442-2292 or e-mail her at gstipp2001@yahoo.com.

The American Red Cross staff's goal is to collect at least 45 units during this drive. The next Civic Center blood drive will be Aug. 30.

Girl Scouts seek sports leaders

The Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council, which includes parts of Oakland County, are looking for leaders who have promoted and/or enhanced opportunities for girls and women in sports.

For the first time, the council is hosting the Leaders and Best Awards to honor those who have made contributions to sports and impacted their community Oakland, Wayne, Livingston or Monroe counties.

Winners in four categories will be awarded at the U-M Women's basketball game against Minnesota at 2 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Crisler Arena on National Girl and Women in Sports Day. They'll receive a trophy and special reserved seating, while honorable mentions will get certificates.

Categories include: community youth (any girl 18 years or younger in kindergarten-12th grade); Girl Scout (any girl registered with the council); college student (female undergraduate student in a two-four year college program); and adult (woman 18 years or older not in two-four year college program).

A selection committee made up of influential figures in sports and the community will review applications, which are due Jan. 21. Application materials are available at www.gshvc.org or www.ngobue.com.



public house

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"There's nothing like waking up and saying, 'What am I going to create today?' It's almost like being an artistic inventor."

Matthew Keiser
Novi artist

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SPOTLIGHT ON: ORTHODONTIC NEWS

by Donald M. Wayne, D.D.S., M.S.
Orthodontic Specialist

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When used in appropriate cases, Invisalign would seem to be too good to be true. After all, many adults would like to have their teeth straightened, but do not want to endure the self-consciousness of wearing brackets and wires. If so, Invisalign makes it possible to straighten teeth without braces. This system works by making use of a series of clear removable aligners. These clear plastic devices are designed by a computer to move teeth very slowly into their proper position. Each set of aligners is worn for about two weeks, after which the patient graduates to a new set. Patients visit the orthodontist only once every six weeks to ensure that the treatment is progressing as planned.

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PARKS & REC

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Share the spotlight and walk the red carpet with your special person at the Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance. Dads and their daughters will enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and lavish desserts. Be sure to practice your poses for the professional photographers. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 4-5 from 6:30-9 p.m. each night at the Novi Civic Center.

Tickets are required and available now for residents at the Novi Parks office through Thursday, Jan. 27.

Sand, Sun & Fun

Leave the snow and cold behind and join Novi's Parks and Recreation Department as it transforms the Civic Center into Novi Island, your family vacation destination.

Children are invited to enter Children's Cove Beach Area to take part in island activities including sand art, tie dyeing and surfing.

Saturday, Feb. 26 from 2-5 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

Price is \$14 for non-residents and \$12 for children. Tickets are on sale now.

This event is presented in partnership with Providence Hospital.

Breakfast with the Bunny!

Join this special friend for a great morning. Families will enjoy a pancake breakfast with live entertainment, games, an art project and the annual egg hunt.

Saturday, March 19 from 10:11-1:30 a.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

Price is \$8 per person. Tickets are on sale now.

The event is presented in partnership with the Novi Lions Club.

Mother/Son mad science

Marvets of Motion will take moms and sons on a journey through the world of Newton's three laws of motion. This interactive event is all about the fundamentals of moving science. Audience participants will have a chance to take part in wacky experiments, while the Mad Scientists prepares to unveil their top secret "Madon Machine." Professional photos and snacks are included in the cost, evening. Be sure to dress casual.

Friday, April 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center.

Price is \$14 for non-residents and \$12 for residents. This event is for ages 5-10.

Tickets are required and available at the Novi Parks office through Thursday, April 7.

For more information on any of these events, call (248) 347-0400.

Council: Keep down number of multiple-family dwellings

Long-term goals also focus on city services, pension plan

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi City Council members decided last Saturday that the No. 1 priority in long-term goals for the city is to not add any more multiple-family dwellings other than what is allowed by existing zoning.

The second priority cluster after goals were presented included implementing an annual plan to add police and fire personnel, moving to a defined contribution pension program for new city employees and aggressively pursuing a plan for a new library.

Other goals in this cluster were to reduce the unfunded liability in post retirement benefits and establish and commit to minimum staffing levels in all departments to reduce need for future reductions in force.

In the third priority cluster, council suggested a Farmer's Market at Fuert Farm and building a free-standing senior center on city land.

The fourth priority was to set a timetable for improvements to Beck Road improvements at Eight Mile Road and Grand River Avenue.

Long-term goals placed at a lower priority included adding dressing room facilities for women firefighters, increasing the non-resident tax base, and continuing to improve the level and delivery of city services in a cost-effective manner.

Other suggestions were to plan

The second priority cluster after goals were presented included implementing an annual plan to add police and fire personnel, moving to a defined contribution pension program for new city employees and aggressively pursuing a plan for a new library.

to accomplish improvements at city parks, complete improvements at parks, establish side-yard drainage improvements and develop a streetscape for the Grand River Avenue area.

Council members also want to identify and develop a community character for Novi, including physical characteristics and use the city's water and sewer funds to enhance systems and equipment.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@novihomecomm.net.

City council establishes short-term goals

Many ideas suggested for next 18 months starting in July

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City council members braved a major snowstorm last Saturday morning to establish short-term and long-term goals for Novi. After an initial brainstorming session, members voted on their top priorities, which were then divided into clusters.

Short-term goals were those determined for the next 18 months after the start of the next fiscal year on July 1, 2005. Long-term goals were established for more than 18 months in the future.

Short-term goals in the first priority cluster were to continue with the Neighborhood Road Improvements program without another road bond and provide better transportation for seniors, including adding a coordinator.

Goals in the second priority cluster included upgrading the city's information technology,

using forfeiture funds to construct a fitness center, and re-evaluating continuing education for staff and managers, such as seminars and conferences.

Other goals in this cluster were to investigate the feasibility of a Downtown Development Authority for all four quadrants of the Main Street/Grand River Avenue area and to build the city's own performing arts building using non-tax sources.

The third priority cluster in short-term goals included repairing and maintaining City Hall and streetscapes and improving entry signs and gateways to Novi.

Other goals were to develop a plan to control health benefits and pension liabilities, upgrade the city fleet of vehicles and explore lease agreements, and complete the field irrigation at the Sports Complex.

The fourth priority cluster under short-term goals included enhancing the "50's Festival" and developing a strategy to deal with future reduction in state shared revenue.

In the fifth priority cluster for short-term goals, the council suggested adding sidewalks to all school properties and imple-

menting a maintenance program for the Novi Fire Department.

Other goals outside of the priority clusters were to continue to inform citizens of the city's Neighborhood Services programs and continue to focus on improved services to Novi citizens.

Suggestions also included using the city's tree fund money to replace diseased ash trees, having elected officials meet with neighboring communities and identifying uses for the drug forfeiture money.

The council also wants to continue to implement a personnel

OBITUARY

ROBERT C. BOWN

Age 71, of Brighton, Mr. Bown passed away on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at University of Michigan Hospital following a lengthy illness. He was born April 20, 1933 in Detroit, the son of Carl & Blanche (Munster) Bown. On May 29, 1954 he was married to Patricia L. Morton in Detroit & moved to the Brighton area from Novi in 1989. Mr. Bown was preceded in death by one son Mark in 1986. Mr. Bown was a charter member of American Legion Post #19 in Novi & had retired from Huron Steel Trading of Van Buren Township & after retiring enjoyed working at the Fox Hills Golf Course in Plymouth for several years. Surviving is his wife Patricia of Brighton, sons John (Pam) Bown of McHenry, IL, Steve (Cindy) Bown of Howell, 4 grandchildren, Kevin, Alison, Jennifer & Craig, and 1 brother, Jerry (Mary) Bown of Milford. Funeral services have already taken place at the Keim Funeral Home, Brighton 816-229-9871. Burial was at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi on Saturday, January 22, 2005. Memorial contributions are requested to the Livingston County Humane Society, P.O. Box 51, Brighton, MI, 48116.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$14 a line. Pictures may be published for \$25. *Deadline for obituaries is 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday for publication in the next morning's newspaper. Obituaries received Friday or Saturday by 1 p.m. will be published in Sunday's newspapers. For more information, call 888-999-1288, or contact your funeral home. *Headline deadlines are subject to change.

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History preserved at the cusp of Novi History

Mamola has adjusted old home, barn for life, work

By Kim Kovelie
STAFF WRITER

Setting under the restored oak beams in his 1930s architectural office, Lee Mamola said it started with a little run along Nine Mile Road.

He noticed the tiny "For Sale" sign on the Greek Revival home at Center Street's dead end.

"It was in 1991," Mamola said. "I always knew this house was here. I stopped at the fence and realized, there's another little building on the property."

"I thought, maybe that could be an office."

Since then, with plenty of restoration work, Mamola Associates Architects has made its home in just that spot.

Mamola and wife Nancy live in the 1800s home also on the land.

"That was our big deal," Byrne said. "It has all kinds of pine trees. We have the long picket fence in the front and we always hang flags across it."

The apple ham

Now flanked by the Dunbarton Pines subdivision, the Mamola home has been a landmark since it was an apple orchard years ago.

Based on a property abstract, Mamola said the home was built 1834, and its original owner was Samuel Hungerford. Since then,

she helped care for him and, when moved to a nursing home, helped put the home on the market.

Some potential buyers wanted to tear down the home for condos or apartments, said Byrne.

"From an early age, I always had a respect of history and who lives where," she said. "I just felt it should be kept as a family home."

It was the Mamolas who ultimately stood out. "We had a sensitivity to the property," Lee said.

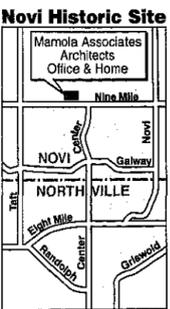
Springing up

Vacant for several years, the home had a long list of needed pick-ups.

"It had fallen into a little bit of disrepair," Lee said. "It was an old farmhouse. We had to move into an unfixed home."

A large hole in the kitchen was patched, of course, but other repairs to that room, including a floor and ceiling, took a year.

Novi architect Lee Mamola has put a lot of effort into renovating his Nine Mile Road home that was built in the mid-1800s.



NOVI HISTORIC SITE

several families have lived there. Former Novi resident Mary Ellen Crouse Byrne's uncle owned the property in the 1940s, when it was close to 100 acres. During the 1950s, she lived nearby.

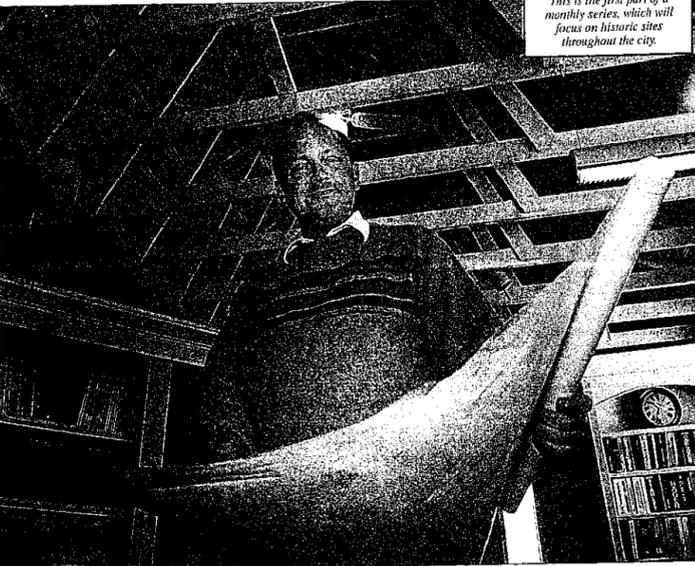
"At that time, a lot of that area was into apple orchards," Byrne said. "The barn that's now the architectural office was the barn where they processed the apples. It was basically agricultural and a few homes."

She recalled strolling down the rolling hills north of the barn.

"That was our big deal," Byrne laughed. "We watched them sorting the apples. The smell was quite pungent."

Later, the property was sold to Byrne's employer, attorney Philip McElroy, and his wife Eva. McElroy made his home office in the barn, Byrne said.

As the lawyer grew ill, Byrne said



Novi architect Lee Mamola has worked extensively on his Nine Mile Road home including its former barn that he's converted to use as his office.

"We used the bathroom as our kitchen sink," Nancy said. "It was really primitive. Everything was probably shag carpeting."

The basement leaked, and the home was held together literally by pegs, Lee said.

Carpeting was torn out. Wallpaper was scraped.

A barn area on the back of the house is nearly complete in its rebirth as a family room. For Nancy, a personal quest has been replacing small glass windows but preserving original panes and sashes.

For Lee, who left his own mark on the city through commercial architectural design and planning board service in the mid-1980s, restoring the barn became a keen interest.

"We went out looking for old windows. Instead we found these antique doors," said Lee, gesturing to the lead glass, wood doors in his office. "The little aluminum storm doors weren't going to work for an architect's office."

From rebuilding cupolas to replacing roof trusses one by one,

Mamola made a home for his business. It took, Lee said, "a lot of sweat equity. I did a lot of the work myself."

The result won an award from the American Architectural Institute in 1997.

"It's kind of ironic in a way, given all this development over the years," Lee said, chuckling that his winning structure is white-painted, concrete block.

Though he supports developing new houses, Mamola said he gets a different sense from his 171-year-old abode.

"There is an emotional, psychological benefit that just brings about a certain peacefulness," he said.

It started with a job, and ended with a historic labor of love that continues.

Kim Kovelie is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or at kovelie@novihomecomm.net.

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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@h1homecomm.net Kim Kovellev, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@h1homecomm.net

Tsunami victims to get help from Novi training event

Trainer aims to give at least \$8,000 to orphanage

By Kim Kovellev

It started as a glimpse of the Asian tsunami's catastrophic impact on a Sri Lankan orphanage on a CNN news report.

From there, professional group exercise trainer Pam Cosmi set a goal: she'd help the Saranath Children's Home raise the \$800,000 it needs to start over.

"I'm just going to donate everything I make until they're able to rebuild," Cosmi said. "They started with 30 orphans and now they have 150."

A training gig at the Sports Club of Novi, where Cosmi recently started teaching classes to step instructors, was one of her first efforts.

Debbie Neutle, director of group exercise at the club, was looking forward to the event last week.

"It was just kind of exciting to be part of it, for us to be able to have an experience where we're not only learning new things for

our trade but able to help others as well," Neutle said.

"I was just really impressed by her willingness. Technically she would be able to keep all this for herself because it's her work. It's a lot of work and effort."

A professional trainer with 22 years' experience, Cosmi has helped athletes around the globe for about a decade.

Lately, the native Michigander has focused some efforts in Novi. She's been working with the city's Life Time Fitness, and teaching step aerobics, strength training and dance-based aerobics at the Sports Club of Novi twice weekly.

All proceeds will go to the orphanage. Cosmi said that currently, orphaned children are finding sanctuary in church basements and with foster families.

"I'm planning to donate clothing, toys and other supplies to help and entertain kids."

"They need things to do. These kids sit around all day long. They have no board games, no coloring books, anything," Cosmi added.

Over the next six to nine months, she's planning to donate clothing, toys and other supplies to help and entertain kids.

"I have a comfortable life," Cosmi said. "I have everything I need. I work because I love it. There's no reason I need to keep the money."

Kim Kovellev is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or via e-mail at kkovelle@h1homecomm.net.

"I have everything I need. I work because I love it. There's no reason I need to keep the money."

Pam Cosmi donating to the tsunami relief effort

sessions at the Sports Club of Novi.

In all, she plans to have about 20 workshops lined up by the summer. Classes, such as the ones she hosts at the sports club, bring in about \$35 each.

Cosmi also has done past fundraisers for AIDS benefits and the American Heart Association.

"I have a comfortable life," Cosmi said. "I have everything I need. I work because I love it. There's no reason I need to keep the money."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Country Inn launches loyalty program

Country Inn & Suites by Carlson, located at 21625 Haggerty Road in Novi, recently launched "goldpoints plus," a new hotel loyalty program.

The new program allows patrons to earn "Gold Points" when they stay at one of Carlson's 800 participating worldwide locations, found under four different names. Also participating are T.G.I. Friday's and the Radisson Seven Seas Cruises line.

The "plus" version offers three membership levels: base, silver elite and gold elite. With more points, rewards can reach 50-75 percent bonuses. Other perks include free room nights, points earned for reserving online and spending money in the hotel, and an option to convert points to select airline reward programs.

In addition to Country Inn, Carlson Hotels Worldwide runs Radisson Hotels & Resorts, Park Plaza Hotels & Resorts and Park Inn.

Providence studies defibrillators

The Providence Heart Institute recently helped conduct a worldwide study on implant cardioverter defibrillators.

Published Jan. 20, the Sudden Cardiac Death in Heart Failure

Trail found that the defibrillators reduce death rates by 23 percent over two-and-a-half years in people with heart failure. The defibrillators control dangerous abnormal heart rhythms. The study, which involved more than 2,500 heart failure patients, suggested that about 600,000 Americans with this heart condition could be at risk for sudden cardiac arrest and should be protected with the defibrillator.

The patient group treated with a drug called amiodarone, the standard treatment for heart failure, experienced no decrease in death rates.

Medtronic, Inc., a medical device company based in Minneapolis, sponsored the study with the National Institutes of Health, Providence, which makes its Providence Park home at 47601 Grand River Ave., was the only center in metro Detroit to take part in the study.

The Diamond Award credits those who have improved conditions for the workplace. Last year, both awardees were from Oakland County.

Nominations must be postmarked by March 1. Winners will be honored at the Matrix Awards Banquet this May. For an official entry form and more information, call (248) 582-8465 or e-mail roseanna@nicolaevents.com.

Taubman to release '04 earnings

Taubman Centers, Inc., which operates Novi's Twelve Oaks mall, will announce its fourth quarter and complete 2004 earnings after the market closes Feb. 8.

A conference call to discuss results and 2005 outlook will be held Feb. 9 at 11 a.m. Stockholders and other interested can listen to a live broadcast

Quality, low costs the draw for resale clothing shops

Cracking open the dressing room door, 14-year-old Tara Keefler stepped out for a family critique.

"That's pretty," younger sister April said of the form-fitting, halter-style.

Mom Sharon decided, "I wouldn't be caught dead in it, but I like it."

Part of a national chain, Plato's also attracts new clothes, from Silver brand jeans to mail retailers looking to sell last season's attire.

Along with Smart Chicks Consignment, the stores have become destinations for those seeking brand-name, high-quality attire at slim costs.

Based on the numbers, fashion savvy, price-conscious shoppers have been flocking.

"They have an opportunity to buy something they wouldn't normally be able to afford," said Cindy Mericich of Novi, who consigns clothing and accessories.

Owners both agree that there are enough differences to keep appeal unique — so much that cross-references are made regularly.

The Smart Chicks shopper is around age 35, with brands ranging from Ralph Lauren and Ann Taylor to a showcase of Coach purses.

"We say it's either get to cute or classic," said Nancy Solomon, who operates the independent shop

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Dressing Novi up in second-hand clothing

Quality, low costs the draw for resale clothing shops

By Kim Kovellev

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Nancy Solomon operates Smart Chicks' Consignment clothing shop on Grand River Ave.

PLATO'S CLOSET

What: Novi resale boutique geared towards male and female teens and young adults. "Trendy" style and labels one to one-and-a-half years old are bought daily until one hour before close.

Wares: clothing and accessories, from jeans, dresses, tops, skirts and jackets to belts, shoes, purses and jewelry.

Brand sampling: Express, Gap, Forever 21, Abercrombie & Fitch, American Eagle, Hollister, Silver, Wet Seal

Where: 4340 West Oaks Drive, West Oaks II shopping center off Novi Road, north of I-96

Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Saturday; 12-5 p.m., Sunday

Coming up: "Moonlight Madness" sale, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 29. Savings start at 50 percent off select items and reach 70 percent by night's end.

Contact: (248) 374-8075; www.platoscloset.com



Karah Bradshaw, 15, takes a look at some purses at Novi's Plato's Closet in West Oaks II mall.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ALLERGY & ASTHMA

Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.

LINK BETWEEN ASTHMA & WHITE BLOOD CELLS

Two separate studies have confirmed the link between asthma and certain white blood cells. Dr. Rowe's research has identified a potential asthma cause by researchers in studies conducted at the Mayo Clinic, Scripps, Arizona, and Harvard Medical School. These white blood cells, which are part of the immune system, have been shown to exist in asthmatic airways. Studies experts to believe they contribute to asthma. When these cells are genetically altered, they have no effect in their airways. It became impossible for researchers to provoke the excess always sensitivity and meet over production of an asthma attack. In the second study, researchers were able to produce these symptoms, but didn't see the structural airway changes commonly found in asthma.

For two decades, Dr. Rowe, a board certified allergist and certified clinical research investigator, has directed several medical studies to develop new treatments and procedures for allergy and asthma patients. At

www.allergyinfo.org

LET'S TALK ABOUT JEWELRY

WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST

LIKE A FINE RED WINE

Analysis, the birthstone for February, has had a long association with wine. Perhaps because this gemstone possesses the color of rich, deep purple grapes. In fact, its name is derived from this association. "A-methystos" means "not tipsy" in Greek, and the name was given to the gemstone in the belief that it could ward off the danger of drunkenness. Until a large South American deposit of amethyst was discovered in about 1760, this purple variety of crystalline quartz ranked among the most precious gemstones. Whatever its supposed magical properties, amethyst is a remarkably beautiful gemstone that has been traditionally popular among those who love the color purple, which is, at once, both elegantly romantic and cutting-edge contemporary.

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SENIORS

Kim Kovelie, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net

Police departments answer call for cell phones

Tom Filipczak
SPECIAL WRITER

Last year, Isabelle Cholakian, a Northville senior citizen, decided she needed a cell phone for emergencies. She went to the Northville Police Department and got one for free. "I have it in the car," said Cholakian with a slippery New England accent 55 years removed from Boston. Cholakian took advantage of the Cell Phones for Seniors program led by Officer Matt Clemence of the Northville Police Department. The program collects donated cell phones and clears the information from the phone's previous user. The phones are not under contract but if they are functional and charged then they are required by the Federal Communications Commission to be able to dial 911. The idea originally came from Novi which has

a similar program in place. "Their (Novi's) idea was to start it and pass it on," said Clemence. "I've never had to use mine but it's good to have," said Cholakian. That's the idea according to Greg Guice, Assistant Division Chief at the FCC. Public phones can dial 911 for free in case of emergencies. "Let's get the same thinking behind wireless handsets," said Guice. This feature is part of the FCC's Wireless Enhanced 911 program (E911). The number of 911 calls made from wireless phones is well over 50 million a year, according to the FCC. Because cell phones are mobile it became difficult to accurately locate the location of the caller unless the caller had the presence of mind to provide it. As of October 1, 2001, E911

required national wireless carriers like Cingular, Nextel, and others to be able to accurately report the location of wireless 911 calls," according to Thomas J. Sograte, Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at the FCC at the time this phase of E911 went into effect. "Accuracy" is a little misleading. This only required wireless carriers to provide the location within a three-mile radius. December 31, 2005, is the deadline for wireless carriers to implement Phase 2 of E911 which requires the carriers to provide the caller's location, within 100 meters. This is crucial, especially in cases of phones that aren't used and are used specifically for emergencies. Because 911-only phones don't have their own numbers the emergency operator will not be able to

call back if the call is dropped before all of the necessary information is received. When a call comes into a 911 operator the phone number of the caller is displayed. In cases of 911-only phones, 911-123-4567 is the number that is displayed. This "lets the operator know they can't call this person back," said Guice.

Local donations

People have been "very generous," said Officer Clemence, of the amount of donations received. Officer Clemence points out that the program is not just for Northville residents or seniors. Visitors from out of town and people with disabilities are welcome to take advantage of the program. Also, phones that are in good shape and have a functional bat-

December 31, 2005, is the deadline for wireless carriers to implement Phase 2 of E911 which requires the carriers to provide the caller's location, within 100 meters.

tery can be put under contract for full service, provided that the phone isn't too old, according to Verizon Wireless of Novi. "I've told several people about the program," said Cholakian. Cholakian values communication, underscoring the importance of the senior center's Telecare program which routinely makes calls to local seniors. When she's not playing peniche, Cholakian works the phones for the program

two days a week. Also, Liberty Tax Service of Novi is collecting phones and buying phone cards for troops so that they can keep in touch with family and friends.

Tom Filipczak is a University of Michigan-Dearborn intern. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109 or at tfilipczak@ht.homecomm.net.

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HEALTH BRIEFS

BC/BS launches online survey

Two million Michigan residents with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan or Blue Care Network coverage now have free online access to an interactive, personalized health appraisal tool that can help them identify health risk factors and help them lead healthier lives.

The online tool was developed by the Michigan Blues with assistance from a population health management company, HealthAtoZ, and the prestigious University of Michigan Health Management program called BlueHealthConnection.

The new tools give members immediate feedback that can be used to develop personal action plans, track and monitor personal health education materials, and other tools that help members stay well or better manage chronic health problems.

BlueHealthConnection appraisal takers can view their reports and appraisal results as often as they like. The online appraisal can be taken every six months. For the most thorough findings, members should have the following information on hand when they log in for the 15-minute appraisal questionnaire:

- Most recent blood pressure readings
- Cholesterol levels
- Date of last checkup
- Recent vaccination dates
- Recent screening test dates

Blues members whose health plan is underwritten (fully insured) by the Blues automatically qualify for the assessment (unless their group opts out of the program). Member in larger companies that self-insure and contract with the Blues to administer their coverage have the option of whether to add BlueHealthConnection and these new tools to their range of benefits. Approximately 2 million Michigan Blue plan members will have the online service.

Defibrillators save lives of heart failure patients

Implantable cardioverter defibrillators reduce death rates by 23 percent in people with heart failure, according to a landmark worldwide study conducted in part at the Providence Heart Institute and published in the Jan. 20, edition of the New England Journal of Medicine. Providence was the only center in metro Detroit to take part in the study.

The study, known as SCD-HEFT or Sudden Cardiac Death in Heart Failure Trial, suggests that approximately 600,000 Americans with this heart condition could be at risk for sudden cardiac arrest and should be protected by an ICD, which controls dangerous abnormal heart rhythms. The study involved more than 2,500 heart failure patients. It found that ICD's reduced sudden death rates in heart failure patients by 23 percent over a period of two years. In comparison, the patient group treated with a drug called amiodarone, the standard treatment for heart failure, experienced no decrease in death rates.

There were 829 patients in the defibrillator arm of the study and 845 in the amiodarone group.

Another 847 study participants received a placebo. The defibrillator is placed under the skin of the chest and shocks the heart by sending an electric signal to the heart to correct a potentially fatal arrhythmia. Amiodarone is used to correct irregular heartbeats.

Physicians sign up for online credentialing

More than 3,000 participating Michigan physicians have taken advantage of a new universal online enrollment, credentialing and re-credentialing system in Michigan in what's termed as one of the most successful launches of its kind in the nation.

Put into practice by the Michigan Blues on June 1, the Universal Credentialing DataSource is designed to help provide required enrollment, credentialing and re-credentialing information to participating health care organizations in a uniform manner.

"Response by physicians has been outstanding. We're told it is one of the most successful launches of the system in the nation. To date, more than 23 percent of all doctors in Michigan have registered to use this new, free, secure single source for enrollment and credentialing data, allowing them to spend fewer hours filling out paperwork and more time treating patients," said Thomas Simmer, M.D., senior vice president and chief medical officer for the Michigan Blues. "We hope other health plans will also adopt this service to further ease the administrative burden for doctors."

The system enables physicians to satisfy credentialing needs of participating health care organizations by entering their information via the Internet. Fax service also is available. The secure service also makes it possible for physicians to spend only a few minutes to periodically update their data online, helping ensure that their data are complete and accurate.

FIT FOR LIFE - "GROUP FITNESS"

Happy 2005! Last year passed quickly, and it's important to look at what this year has in store for you. Now that the New Year is upon us, it's time that you make time for you and for your exercise program. A key element in the success of any goal is having fun. It is so easy to slip when boredom exists or the goal seems more like a burden. Simply put, when looking for a means to an end, consideration of the overall experience should be a priority.

Group fitness has entered a whole new era, turning the class time into a memorable and enjoyable experience. It is a chance for participants to escape reality into a zone of powerful and emotive music, social interaction, moral support, and entertainment.

Beyond this, the benefits of group exercise are many. Increased energy, reduction of stress and anxiety, increased quality of sleep, increased good (HDL) cholesterol, and control and/or reduction in body fat. The group setting is free of competition and abundant encouragement.

Further, research has clearly and consistently demonstrated that exercise adherence is improved when a sense of group camaraderie or cohesion exists.

In choosing a group exercise program, diversity in routines is crucial. One must carefully schedule classes that include a variety of training disciplines including cardiovascular, strength, and stretching. It is important to also pay attention to whether the program caters to different needs in pace and intensity. Alternating between cardio and strength is vital to group exercise success. Cardio-focused classes help to burn calories, increase bone density, improve posture, agility, and endurance. Strength training can help increase bone density while improving balance and muscle tone. Further, varying cardio routines can increase your results.

A common mistake is remaining static in your selection of classes therefore failing to challenge you enough to achieve consistent results. Group fitness instructors who possess and share contagious enthusiasm and passion for their roles certainly turn an ordinary class into an extraordinary experience.

As you search for a group exercise program to fit your needs, consideration should be given to a program committed to providing comprehensive group exercise classes. Those classes should be motivating, fun, and effective. Remember that each experience can ultimately become more time and rewarding. If you make the time and promise to yourself to start a group exercise program, you can succeed.

Shirley King is the director of Group Exercise at the Water Wheel Health Club. She is multiple certified and has years of experience in group classes. She can be reached at (248) 449-7634.

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Collaboration: 10:30 a.m.
(248) 348-1700
Dr. Ron Skow, Pastor

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
200 E. Main St. at Huron (248) 349-0911
Worship & Church School: 10:00am
Children Available at All Services
Youth Group: Wed 4:15-5:00 PM
Singer: Rose Ministry - Thurs 7:30pm
Rev. W. Kent Clark, Senior Pastor
Rev. James E. Russell, Associate Pastor

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. N. of 8 1/2 Mile
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m.
248-348-7757
Minister: Rev. D.E. Neil Hunt
Minister of Music: Patricia Kuhl

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
WEEKEND SERVICES: Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Church: 349-2621, School: 349-3610
Religious Education: 349-2607
Rev. Rosemary Kerner, Pastor

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican)
10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Haggerty
Phone: 349-1176
Sun. 7:45 & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School & Nursery 10 am
Rev. Karen Henry, Pastor
www.churchofholycross.com

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
9 Mile & Meadowbrook
Worship: Ev Lutheran Standard
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 8:45am
Worship: 10:00am
Thomas E. Schaefer, Pastor - 349-0565

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345
1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.
Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor
Worship & Church School 9:00 & 10:30 am Sunday

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE
36611 14th
8 Mile & Tart Roads
Worship Services 8:00am, 9:15am & 11am
Rev. John Rice
Rev. Steve Goss

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI
36225 14 Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48274
Saklatyia 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Reverend George Charkay, Pastor
Phone: 349-2778

OAK POINTE CHURCH
Northville High School on 6 Mile
Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Casual, contemporary live band
(248) 615-7030

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
2600 Meadowbrook Rd. Novi, MI 48275
Mass: Sat 5pm, Sun 7:30am
8:45am, 10:30am, 12:15pm
Holy Days 7 am, 8:30 pm, 7:30 pm
Fr. Paul Sollen, Associate Pastor
Parish Office: 349-8827

HARVEST FELLOWSHIP
49329 Pontiac Trail
Warren
248-926-8332
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
3225 6th Road
Between Grand River & Freedom
248-474-0584
9:15 Traditional, 11:15 Contemporary
Sunday School: 10:30
Daniel Covey, Pastor
Scott Blunget, Intern

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Dr. James H. McPherson, 36337400
6022 W. 14 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Teatime Services: Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service: 7:00 p.m.
Service Brochure: 349-1100

CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH
Pastor Danny L. Langley
Traditional Services - 9:00 A.M.
Contemporary Service - 10:30 A.M.
Meeting at Novi Civic Center
248-444-7755
crosspointemeadows.org

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21355 Meadowbrook Rd. N. of 8 1/2 Mile
Morning Worship: 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery: 10 a.m.
248-348-7757
Minister: Rev. D.E. Neil Hunt
Minister of Music: Patricia Kuhl

FAITH

Ramez Khuri, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@ht-homecomm.net

CHURCH CALENDAR

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.)

Adult Bible Study is on Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m. Worship Service of Compliment is held at 8:30 p.m. Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and J2A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. 7 p.m. Youth Worship Service is held the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross has moved to 40709 W. Ten Mile (between

Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads), Novi. Phone (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchofthe-holycross.com

Crosspointe Meadows Church of God presents an Alpha Course, "Exploring the Christian Faith," on Sundays at 6 p.m. There are over 28,000 Alpha courses running all over the world. Check out the Alpha Course Web site at www.alpha.com. Program includes workbook and light supper. There is no fee. CMC offices are located at 39830 Grand River Ave., Ste. B1-C (west of Haggerty). Phone (248) 427-2700; Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church invites you to worship at either the 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. services. Sunday school is offered at both services for children pre-kindergarten-12th grade.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church houses the Novi Emergency Food Bank, which accepts all canned goods and non-perishable items as donations. The food bank is available to qualified persons in Novi, Walled Lake and New Hudson.

Dr. Henderson will be leading a class on Death and Dying: The Quality of Life on Sunday, Jan. 30 and Sunday, Feb. 6 at 5 p.m. Communion will be served at Sunday's service at both the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

All are welcome at worship and any of the Adult Education classes.

Faith Community Presbyterian is located at 44400 W. Ten Mile Rd. in Novi

ice is open to the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths.

The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Rd. (at Taft Road), Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144.

The Holy Family Church presents Theology on Tap, a program designed for young adults (but all are welcome), at Gus O'Connor's, on the corner of Grand River and Market Street in Novi from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on the following Mondays:

Jan. 31, "Praying All Ways" - Sharing with Others How You Pray

Feb. 7, "Tsunamis, Disease, Hurricanes: Why Do innocent people suffer?" Moderator: Fr. John Budde, Pastor, Holy Family.

Novi Feb. 14, "Relationships: Pathways to Holiness" Loving God Through Loving Others

For more information, please contact the Holy Family Church at (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

The church offers a Spanish-speaking Mass once a month beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

The church is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue. Call (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org.

Oak Pointe Church is moving to Novi High School beginning Sunday, Feb. 6

Service times will be at 9:30

and 11:15 a.m. For more information, visit www.oakpointe.org or call (248) 912-0043.

St. James Catholic Church is located at 46325 Ten Mile Rd., Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

The Novi United Methodist Church is located at 41671 W. Ten Mile Road. Call (248) 349-2652 for more information.

Hope Lutheran Church is located at 39200 W. 12 Mile Rd., just east of Haggerty Road. The telephone number is (248) 553-7170.

Meadowbrook Church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., between Eight and Nine Mile roads.

EDUCATION

Ramez Khuri, school reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@ht-homecomm.net

Junior performs rap inspired by MLK

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Freedom and equality among all people.

It's what the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for, and students at Novi High School were treated last Thursday to an uplifting and informative rap concert and presentation which was inspired by the late civil rights leader.

The kids had the day off from school Jan. 17, which was Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but teachers were to report in to work for records day. Rather than letting the holiday slip by without any acknowledgment, social studies teachers Corey Nuckolls and Nicole Carter, who happen to be twins, organized a presentation complete with much useful information and an entertaining rap song, performed by junior Martez Tillmon.

"The inspiration for it was the fact that there is a national holiday celebrating the life of Dr. King, and my goal is that students develop the skills to become more productive citizens and that they're inspired by his dream to establish their own dream so that they can make a positive difference in our world," Nuckolls said. "We had several questions from students afterwards, but I think the most important thing is a follow up."

Nuckolls explained that if nothing is done in the next few weeks and months, he and Carter can't necessarily say that the presentation made a positive difference. His hope is that the school's next diversity activities club meeting will draw more students who want to be involved.

"When you look at names of history, like Washington, Lincoln, Kennedy, Roosevelt, Bush and Reagan, you should also hear Dr. King's name," Nuckolls said. "Some of these students might not hear about this in their classrooms or their homes. I think it's our role to make sure they get the knowledge so they can pass it on to others."

Carter agreed. She said she wanted the students to know that even though Dr. King may not have been brought up in the classroom, the holiday wasn't forgotten. She explained that as a teacher, it is her responsibility to educate young people about what transpired in the past so that potentially, those type of things don't happen in the future.

"Dr. King was a spokesperson and a catalyst for the civil rights movement, and it's important for these young people to be aware of who he was, his life, his legacy, his accomplishments - and hopefully they will be inspired or encouraged to go out and make a difference in the society that they live in," Carter said. "Whether they live in the Novi community or in Washington D.C., by this presentation, kids have been uplifted and inspired to go that extra mile and make a significant difference in society."

Tillmon said the inspiration for his song about Dr. King came after hearing about him from his grandmother.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. helped people a lot with the things he did in the 1960s," Tillmon said. "I wasn't born yet at that time, but I hope the kids here learned that everything should be equal with race. There should be no discrimination."

Tillmon said that music is his love and passion in life. In fact, he has two CDs of music that are completed and he's trying to make them available for sale by April.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or rkhuri@ht-homecomm.net.

Martez Tillmon
Novi High School junior



Courtesy photo

Hockey night in Plymouth
The Orchard Hills' Elementary Family Night was spent in Plymouth last weekend, as students and parents took in a Whalers game. The kids witnessed a good game, as the Whalers beat the Sarnia Sting, 5-3. Orchard Hills' third graders Jeremy Dziewit, Keith Pravato and Ian Tecklenburg cheer on the Plymouth Whalers Hockey Team.

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Space Reservation Deadline: Tuesday, February 1, 2005
Copy Deadline: Wednesday, February 2, 2005
Publication Dates: February 24, 2005



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Novi News	248-349-1700

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See your cute, or even not-too-cute pet in our SPECIAL PET SECTION coming in March in all our Oakland weekly papers.

That's right... see your little, or not-so-little darling in the South Lyon Herald, Northville Record, Novi News and Milford Times.

Send your non-returnable photo with the pet's name, your name, address and phone number, a description of the pet and any general information you would like printed about your special pet for just \$20.

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Deadline is February 28th

Dining & Entertainment Guide

It's time to sink your teeth into our Spring Dining & Entertainment Guide

This Special Section offers tremendous potential for new customers to become old customers. Let us help you increase your business by reserving space today.

Space Reservation: Monday, February 21, 2005
Copy Deadline: Tuesday, February 22, 2005
Publication Date: Thursday, March 17, 2005

Oakland
Milford Times
South Lyon Herald
Northville Record
Novi News

HOME TOWN Newspapers

Milford Times	248-685-1507
South Lyon Herald	248-437-2011
Northville Record	248-349-1700
Novi News	248-349-1700

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SPECIAL PET SECTION

Man's best friends

Our special pet section will provide pet care advice from tip to tail. Be it fins, feathers or fur this pet guide will have "everything pets". Your business will fit right in. From groomers to pet stores to kennels to veterinary offices, the Special Pet Section is a great way to get your business known in the community, no bones about it!

Space Reservation Deadline: Monday, February 28, 2005
Copy Deadline: Tuesday, March 1, 2005
Publication Dates: Thursday, March 17, 2005

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South Lyon Herald	248-437-2011
Northville Record	248-349-1700
Novi News	248-349-1700

"...I hope the kids here learned that everything should be equal with race."

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES

CITY OF NOVI HAIR SALON SERVICES MEADOWBROOK COMMONS ADDENDUM #2

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Construction Board of Appeals, Economic Development Corporation, Historical Commission, Library Board of Trustees and Public Access Promotion Committee.

If you are a qualified voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City board or commission, applications are available at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile, or by calling (248) 347-0456 to receive an application by mail or fax, or log onto the City Web Site at www.novi.mi.us to print out an application.

The deadline for filing an application is Monday, February 7, 2005, at 4:00 p.m. to allow time for scheduling interview appointments.

Council will be interviewing applicants on Monday, February 14, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers; interviews are scheduled for 10 minutes each and all City Council meetings are televised.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS FIRE APPARATUS - TRIPLE COMBINATION PUMPER TRUCK

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for FIRE APPARATUS - TRIPLE COMBINATION PUMPER TRUCK according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M., prevailing Eastern Time, Friday, February 18, 2005 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "FIRE APPARATUS - TRIPLE COMBINATION PUMPER TRUCK BID" AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informality or both; to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS 2005 TREE REMOVAL

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for 2005 TREE REMOVAL according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages will be available at the Pre-Bid Meeting.

A pre-bid meeting will be held Monday, January 31, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48375-3024.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M., prevailing Eastern Time, Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "2005 TREE REMOVAL BID" AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informality or both; to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446

NOTICE NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE

Please take notice that the filing deadline for candidacy for the position of Northville Public Schools trustee at the election to be held May 3, 2005 is:

Tuesday, February 8, 2005, 4:00 p.m.
Petitions or required filing payment is to be made at:
Northville Township Clerk's Office
44405 Six Mile Rd., Northville 48167
(1-2027 & 2-3-05 NN/NR 189072) LIBBY SMITH, SECRETARY

CITY OF NOVI FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Singh Homes LLC is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a temporary construction trailer for the Willowbrook Subdivision at 41338 Clement Avenue. This permit is to be issued from February 2, 2005 to February 1, 2006.

A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 2, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail Backus at the City of Novi Building Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

GAIL BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415

CITY OF NOVI HAIR SALON SERVICES MEADOWBROOK COMMONS ADDENDUM #1

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Construction Board of Appeals, Economic Development Corporation, Historical Commission, Library Board of Trustees and Public Access Promotion Committee.

If you are a qualified voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City board or commission, applications are available at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile, or by calling (248) 347-0456 to receive an application by mail or fax, or log onto the City Web Site at www.novi.mi.us to print out an application.

The deadline for filing an application is Monday, February 7, 2005, at 4:00 p.m. to allow time for scheduling interview appointments.

Council will be interviewing applicants on Monday, February 14, 2005, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers; interviews are scheduled for 10 minutes each and all City Council meetings are televised.

CAROL J. KALINOVIK
PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446

The ultimate wedding planner is coming.

This special section will help you stay organized and take you through every decision you need to make to plan the wedding of your dreams. Filled with tips from the experts, worksheets, guidelines and more, this magazine will help you set a budget, select the wedding cake, choose a photographer and much more. And, unlike national magazines, this section is filled with local merchants who can you fulfill your dream. It's a special section you won't want to miss. Reserve your copy today.

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cspegie@ht-homecomm.net.

Please send me a copy of "Wedding Planner" after it publishes Jan. 21. I realize I may receive additional offers from advertisers in the publication.

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Helping the needy

■ Civics class reaches out to aid the poor

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

After students in Janet Thibideau's civics class at Novi High School found out about her unique knitting hobby, they decided they wanted to learn how to do it themselves. When they expressed that to their teacher, she decided to teach them - but only if they would knit scarves for needy people.

Thibideau had been knitting scarves as Christmas gifts earlier in the year. She brought her work in during the school's seminar period one day back in the fall and it quickly became a popular activity among the students.

"They wanted to learn how, so I said let's knit some scarves for homeless people," Thibideau said. "They bought into it and it took off. That's what we have been doing during seminar this whole school year."

To date, 49 scarves have been completed by students and Thibideau is trying to round up at least six more. She plans on sending them to the Capuchin Community Center in Detroit this week.

"I felt that for one thing, I teach civics, so part of learning about citizenship is giving back to the community and I try to emphasize community service and giving back in class," Thibideau said. "19 students have all completed at least one scarf."

According to Thibideau, it really wasn't difficult to teach the kids because of their interest in the project. "The kids picked up on it right away," she said. "There were some kids who tried and just didn't stick with it, but most did."

Thibideau hopes her class can continue the project the rest of the school year and beyond.

"There are a lot of kids who like to be busy with their hands and I think this helps them to have something to do," she said.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net.



Courtesy photo

The working body

Orchard Hills students welcomed William Peters to their school recently for an assembly called "Body Works," a high energy learning experience about anatomy and good health. Dr. B.A. Bodyworks (Peters) has two automated friends named Hillary the Heart and Larry the Liver, that assist him in teaching the kids about the immune system, kidneys and the circulatory system. Pictured here, Dr. B.A. Bodyworks shows students how the heart works and the negative impacts of smoking.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Code of Conduct forums

Public forums to discuss the revision of the Athletic Code of Conduct, which includes random drug testing, have been scheduled for the following:

- Tonight, 7-8:30 p.m. at Novi High School's Auditorium Lecture Hall A. The topic will be a review of the draft document and a collection of questions.
- Thursday, Feb. 24, 7-8:30 p.m. at Novi High School's Auditorium Lecture Hall B. The topic will be to answer submitted and new questions.

After these start dates, parents may register their children between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Child Care Services Office, 25345 Taft Road (in the ITC between Novi Meadows 5 and 6 Grade Houses). A registration packet and more information is available on the school district's Web site, www.novi.k12.mi.us. Parents can also call (248) 449-1713.

Presidential Scholars

Two Novi High School students, Tiffany Lin and Cassie Jeng, are candidates in the Presidential Scholars program.

Long-range plan presented to school board

The Novi Community School District Board of Education witnessed a presentation which revealed the final results of the district's Long Range Plan meeting. The board is expected to approve the plan at the next school board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 3.

Library, school board team up

The Novi Public Library board has requested that the Novi Community School District Board of Education select two of its members to meet with the library board. School Board President John Streit and member John Balagna were selected. They, along with members of the library board will form a committee that will keep the school board informed on what progress is made in regards to improvements to the library.

Preschool registration begins

Registration for current preschool students begins 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2.

Registration for new residents begins Thursday, Feb. 3.

Registration for new residents begins Tuesday, March 1.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

NOVI'S CONTRIBUTIONS

What the other schools in the Novi Community School District are doing to aid tsunami victims:

- **Deerfield Elementary School** has a jug here that students, parents and staff are contributing to, which is sitting in the office. The holiday shop, where the kids come in and purchase items for their families around Christmas time, is donating some of their profits to the victims - between \$500 and \$600 to Tsunami aid. The school sponsored a Chuck E Cheese night on Jan. 13, where all the proceeds went to the Tsunami relief fund. Also, there is a PTO committee that has agreed to sell green wrist bands, which is part of a district-wide effort, for \$1. The wristbands will read "Novi...Novi Cares." 50 cents from each bracelet will go to Tsunami relief.
- **Novi Middle School** is participating in the district-wide wristband program.

- **Novi Woods Elementary School** is participating in the district-wide wristband program.
- **Novi High School** is collecting money during lunch and the student council has already donated \$1,500 to UNICEF.

- **Orchard Hills Elementary School** teacher Dawn Caping received help from her colleagues when friends of hers who live in the area that was hit, e-mailed her and said they needed clothing. All the school staff members went through their closets and donated some. Caping sent five boxes full. Also, two third grade classes, Cathy Brandau's and Melissa Israel's, have been collecting change to donate as well.

- **Village Oaks Elementary School** is participating in the district-wide wristband program.

Meadows student organizes fund-raising effort for Tsunami victims

■ Fifth grader teams up with Novi Rotary

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Though Novi Meadows Elementary is participating in the Novi Community School District's wristband program to raise money for Tsunami victims, fifth grader Christa Kondraciuk has taken it a step further.

With a little help from her grandfather, Al Ponkey, who happens to be a Novi Rotary club member, her auntie Rose and her father, she has taken it upon herself to get the word out that Tsunami victims need all the help they can get right now. She sent three letters out, one to her grandfather, one to her aunt and the third to her dad,

asking for help for her efforts.

Intrigued by the 10-year-old's initiative and leadership, the Novi Rotary went out on street corners, asking motorists for donations on Kondraciuk's behalf. Auntie Rose, who runs her own blog Web site, posted the letter and people from her father's workplace have contributed as well.

"Since it wouldn't be safe for me to go out on street corners, the Novi Rotary helped me out with that," Kondraciuk said. "My grandpa said they raised \$2,000 and I think that's amazing because they're going up when there's a red light and asking 'Can you donate?'"

The effort has raised quite a bit of money from her father's work and praise from his co-workers as well. Also, any donations made on Auntie Rose's Web site will be sent straight to the Novi Rotary to be included with other money raised.

Kondraciuk isn't new to this kind of service either. When she was in first grade, an earthquake rocked India. Instead of not doing anything about it, she and her mother raised between \$5,000 and \$10,000 at Deerfield Elementary School. Then the Novi Rotary doubled it.

"Of course, since I was in the first grade, my mom did most of the work because I was so young," Kondraciuk said. "Now I'm doing it almost all by myself."

She and her mother would go to Deerfield early and sit at a desk in the middle of the hallway. A jar decorated with stickers of piggy banks and sacks of money was placed on the desk so students

Photo by Elaine Maylen

Deerfield hits Chuck E. Cheese

Nearly 100 Deerfield Elementary School families braved bitter cold and snowy weather to raise \$270 from fundraiser held at the Chuck E. Cheese at Fountain Walk. Chuck E. Cheese donated 10 percent of the sales from food and tokens to the Deerfield Community Council. The DCC will combine the Chuck E. Cheese proceeds with the school's other Tsunami Relief fundraising efforts. The Deerfield students and their parents ate pizza and played games together. The Chuck E. Cheese staff did most of the work because I was so young," Kondraciuk said. "My grandpa said they raised \$2,000 and I think that's amazing because they're going up when there's a red light and asking 'Can you donate?'"

The effort has raised quite a bit of money from her father's work and praise from his co-workers as well. Also, any donations made on Auntie Rose's Web site will be sent straight to the Novi Rotary to be included with other money raised.

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She and her mother would go to Deerfield early and sit at a desk in the middle of the hallway. A jar decorated with stickers of piggy banks and sacks of money was placed on the desk so students

JANUARY SPECIALS

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WLS CONTRIBUTIONS

What Walled Lake Consolidated Schools are doing to aid tsunami victims:

- **Glengary Elementary School** student council is sponsoring a Red Cross fund raising effort for the next two weeks.
- **Hickory Woods Elementary School** is collecting donations to send to the Red Cross.
- **Loon Lake Elementary School** is working with Save the Children to collect money. A Loon Lake "Links of Caring" chain was created where each student's family that donates \$5 or more will receive a necklace with a helping hand charm on it.
- **Maple Elementary School**, in connection with their classroom piggy-bank fundraiser, the student council is selling "pig suckers," with all proceeds going to UNICEF to help Tsunami victims.
- **Mary Helen Guest Elementary School** teacher Dan Holland, and his fifth grade students are using the theme "give with your heart," to help victims.
- **Walled Lake Northern High School** several student groups, CAUSE, Stuco, National Honors Society, Language Clubs and others, are collecting donations using canisters and a bake sale is planned. Scott Laine's social studies class collected \$100.
- **Oakley Park Elementary School** raised \$1,000 so far, for the American Red Cross, "Casual for a Cause" fund.
- **Sarah Banks Middle School** in participation with Sarah's Party Store, Wixom, Banks held a car-bolic drive at the school on Jan. 15.
- **Walled Lake Middle School**, using the "Wave of Relief" fund, representing the school's mascot, collected \$1,012, representing \$1 per person at the school.
- **Walled Lake Western High School** is in the beginning stages of a cash generating fundraiser with Warrior Leadership, the school's student council. They are looking for a company that will match funds.

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Northville, MI 48167

Only one entry per person per week. 18 years or older.
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OPINION

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LETTERS

Not fooled

The most pressing problems in the United States today are poverty, health care for all, authentic education reform and lack of jobs. Yet President Bush emphasizes the privatization of social security and "fiscally conservative" policies.

These are false priorities and politically motivated actions. Meanwhile the death toll of American service men and women and Iraqis continues to rise. It is possible to find some of the people most of the time.

Hannah Provence Donigan
Commerce

Speak up on Social Security

Recently CNN news has been airing commercials by a group supporting President Bush's proposed private investment accounts with Social Security taxes and urging viewers to call Congress. I called my congressman (11th district), Thaddeus McCotter, and I was told by an aide that Congressman McCotter does not support any privatizing of social security.

I could not agree more, so I am urging all those in the US 11th district to call Congressman McCotter to let him know that you agree with not privatizing Social Security and that we will hold him accountable to that position.

I also urge you to tell your friends and relatives in other con-

gressional districts to contact their representatives to oppose any privatization of Social Security.

You can also go on line to www.moveon.org/socialsecurity/ and put your name on a petition to Congress against the privatizing of Social Security.

Bush acted on family intelligence leading to the invasion of Iraq, he is now acting on faulty advice on Social Security. To save Social Security, we the people must take action. Bush is known to stay with his beliefs. If we show him that we will too, maybe he will at least respect and accept ours and follow the wish of the people, which is what democracy is based on.

Charles Tindall
Novi

Values are being taught

I would like to respond to Mr. Ponkey's recent letter. As the volunteer service coordinator at Novi High School, I have the pleasure of working with the many giving, caring students. Every year participation in many humanitarian efforts increases.

This school year alone 105 students collected \$2,670 during Truck or Treat for UNICEF. This is the seventh year students have participated in this event, and participation increases every year. Students also have participated in ringing bells for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive for the past 10 years. This year alone

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Generally, no more than one letter per month by the same author will be published. Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be printed in the Thursday edition.

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167

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over 150 students signed up for a two-hour shift during the holiday season. You may have seen them at Twelve Oaks Mall or Farmer Jack. In addition, over 80 students recently joined our Habitat for Humanity group. They are now collecting pledges and will work a four-eight hour shift at a Habitat home being built in Pontiac on two Saturdays in April. Another group of close to 50 students are also collecting and having a Bowl-A-Thon to raise money to fund a cure for Huntington's Esophagus, a disease that one of our students currently battles. These examples are just a few of the many ways that our students volunteer in the community to help those in need.

I am amazed at the amount of participation in volunteer activities by Novi High students. I feel they have very strong values that are being encouraged by Novi Community Schools. It is my pleasure to work with such caring, giving young men and women.

Barbara Clift
Novi High School

Students help others

Mr. Al Ponkey of Novi wrote last week that Novi Meadows fifth and sixth grade students are only involved in "self-including fund drives." "Nothing to help others."

On behalf of the Novi Meadows Student Council officers (fifth and sixth grade), we would like to inform Mr. Ponkey that we are usually involved in at least three charity projects each school year. Each year, we do canned food drives for the needy people in Novi.

We are also involved with a Bridgepoint project. This is where each classroom will have a basket that students contribute non-perishable food items, winter clothing, and other items to help children live better. Another charity project we do each year is the St. Jude's Marathon in which we raise money for the St. Jude's Hospital. And one other fundraiser is that we are going to be selling wrist bands to Novi students, in which raises money for the tsunami victims.

Is there a pattern here?

First he tells us that there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and that Saddam Hussein is going to bomb us. Three years later, we have learned through the reports made by inspectors chosen by this president that Hussein didn't have WMD's as of 1991. The president now tells the American people that the Social Security system is going bankrupt and must be privatized.

He told us falsehoods before; why should we believe him now? Tamara Henrity
Farmington Hills

GOVERNMENT

Per reader request, we have compiled a list so you can get in touch with your local and regional senators and representatives. Their accessibility allows you as readers to voice your concerns directly and allows them to better represent their districts.

United States Senate

Carl Levin (D-Detroit)
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5221
senator@levin.senate.gov

Oakland County

Executive
Brooks Patterson
County Services Center
Building #34 East
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248) 858-0484

Dobbie Stabenow (D-Lansing)

702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4822
senator@stabenow.senate.gov
Local office:
280 E. Saginaw
East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 203-1760

United States Congress

11th District
Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia)
415 Cannon HOB
Washington D.C. 20515-8171
(202) 225-8171
FAX: (202) 225-2667
Local office:
1719 N. Laurel Park Dr.
Ste. 161
Livonia, MI 48152

9th Commission

Hugh D. Crawford
46275 Eleven Mile Road
Novi, MI 48374
(248) 349-5079
hughcrawford@msn.com

Townships

Governor

Jennifer Granholm (D-Northville Twp.)
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 336-7858

State Senate

15th District

Nancy Cassis (R-Nov) P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-1758
sennacassis@senate.michigan.gov

State House of Reps

38th District

Craig DeRoche (R-Nov) 50887 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-0827
FAX: (517) 373-5873
craigderoche@house.mi.gov

39th District

Marc Schulman (R-West Bloomfield)
351 Capitol Building

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-1799
FAX: (517) 373-5777
rstmlman@house.mi.gov

Executive

Christine Long
1342 E. Commerce Road
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
(248) 366-2665
long@co.oakland.mi.us

8th Commission

Jeff Potter
10987 Shible Lane
South Lyon, MI 48178
(248) 437-7537
potterj@co.oakland.mi.us

9th Commission

Hugh D. Crawford
46275 Eleven Mile Road
Novi, MI 48374
(248) 349-5079
hughcrawford@msn.com

Novi

John Juntunen
supervisor
(248) 348-1046

Commerce - Charter

Thomas K. Zoner, supervisor
2840 Fisher Ave.
Commerce Twp., MI 48390
(248) 624-0110
FAX: (248) 624-5834

Cities

Novi
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375-3024
(248) 347-0480
FAX: (248) 347-0577

Walled Lake

1499 E. West Maple Road
P.O. Box 99
Walled Lake, MI 48390-0099
(248) 624-4847
FAX: (248) 624-1616

Wixom

49045 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI 48393-2567
(248) 624-4557
FAX: (248) 624-0863

LANSING CONNECTION

Governor Granholm recently announced she will deliver her State of the State address on Tuesday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. Tradition holds that the governor gives the address annually to the Legislature in the House chambers. In the speech, the governor will lay out her priorities for the year.

Just two days later, the governor will deliver her proposed budget for 2005-2006.

This is an important time for our state. Like many Michigan families, the state's budget is strained. We must work carefully at the wishes of residents and businesses in order to make difficult choices to balance the budget. During this time, it is important that you stay abreast of what is happening and provide feedback to your elected officials.

Unemployment

Michigan's unemployment rate rose to an alarming 7.3 percent in December, the highest in the nation. In the last year, the state's economy lost 47,000 jobs. There was any doubt before, there can be none now — the most important task facing our state is putting Michigan workers back to work.

The loss of jobs in Michigan speaks to our state's economic competitiveness. Michigan must retain and create jobs and train a highly skilled work force to be competitive with other states in the technology-driven economy. As chair of the Senate Finance Committee, getting the state's economic

Can wildlife and corporate corridors co-exist?

Stroll across Twelve Mile Road northbound along Haggerty, and you'll end up in a pile of snow and sparse thicket of trees. Someday, it'll likely house Columbus Corporate Office Centre, a Northern Equities-developed building.

But currently, it's not much of a destination for humans — or raccoons, according to Arlene Davis who works at the BP Gas Station across the street.

In her four years on the job, she's become acquainted with three of the critters. "We've got Rocky, Stimey and Scooter," Davis said. "They're really cute. I'd rather deal with them than skunks."

Sure, they get into the garbage, but Davis reprimands them via loudspeaker. She's never seen the trio scurry across busy, median-divided Twelve Mile Road to the five wooded acres on the other side.

"Rocky and Stimey's pretty smart for that," Davis said.

However, the concept of "corridors" for often squeezed-out animals has been getting increased attention during the city's planning process.

In the past six months, Novi's woodland consultant, Southfield-based Vitican-Lemman & Associates, Inc., has focused on habitat. The "Columbus" project, approved 7-0 at

engine revving again will be a top priority.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Late last year, the State Board of Education, which oversees education issues for the state, gave Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Watkins high marks for his achievements in the preceding two years. The board president and another board member were given authority by the board to negotiate a new contract with Superintendent Watkins, and recently completed that task.

However, when the contract came before the full board for review, it was pulled from the agenda.

Questions arose as to whether Superintendent Watkins would be offered a contract for 2005, and some have insisted that he already has a contract. Governor Granholm now has publicly called for his firing. This situation has led to a degree of turmoil in the State Board of Education and to strained relations between the board and the governor.

The controversy is further fueled by a report on school financing released recently by Superintendent Watkins. The governor, Legislature and the state's residents should have a chance to read the report and have a serious discussion of the issues it raises.

Hopefully, this situation will be resolved soon so that we can focus on the important issues facing the education community, like funding, and continue our work to ensure

State Senator Nancy Cassis, a Novi Republican, represents the 15th Senate District, which includes the townships of Commerce, Highland, Holly, Lyon, Milford, Novi, Rose, West Bloomfield and White Lake, as well as the Villages of Holly, Milford and Wolverine Lake, and the cities of Novi, Northville (the portion in Oakland County), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

A quality education system is vital to the success of our state and our children. Education unlocks doors and provides endless opportunities to prepare students to compete in the global economy. We should be proud of our students and the teachers and administrators who work each day to help them learn.

This report card demonstrates our state's commitment to education and the value that Oakland County residents place on providing a quality education for students.

As always, your comments are welcome and appreciated.

Jack Lessenberry

Jack Lessenberry is a columnist and author. He can be reached at (248) 347-0460.

Jack Lessenberry

Jack Lessenberry

Jack Lessenberry

OTHER OPINIONS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 348-1700, ext. 113 cstone@hometowncomm.net

FROM THE MAYOR

Craig DeRoche: That would be Mr. Speaker, thank you

I had the honor to attend the swearing in ceremony of the 93rd Legislature on January 12. It was a great experience, especially since I had a first row seat on the chamber floor.

This was made possible due to the generosity of one of Novi's most exciting residents, State Representative Craig DeRoche. Please excuse me, I mean to say the Speaker of the House of Representatives Craig DeRoche.

This was Craig's, I mean the Speaker's, shining moment when he was elected to the Michigan State Capitol building. Here was a young man that three years ago sat with us on Novi City Council. Talk about a man on the rise.

Craig and his beautiful family were the epitome of grace as our new Speaker participated in the traditional process of starting the new session.

Did you know that part of this ceremony includes each of the House Member's choosing the seat that they will sit in for the next two years? The Clerk calls each member name, by seniority, and the member picks his or her chair.

There was a light moment when one member of the freshmen class picked seat number five. The Clerk patiently reminded the newcomer that that was the Speaker's chair and Craig would probably not let that happen.

After all of the members moved to their new seats, a judge completed the swearing in ceremony. You know, I don't remember seeing the guy that chose

Craig's seat. Oh well. Then our hometown Speaker came front and center to deliver his inaugural speech. He did a great job. He was very calm and collected as he laid out his vision. He talked about the state's budget situation and had some sound recommendations.

He talked about building the roads where the people live. You have to love his common sense.

He talked about working with folks on both sides of the aisle to turn Michigan around from its current dismal course. The rest of the country is moving forward while Michigan is one of only three States with an unbalanced budget.

It was interesting to watch the Speaker said that they had to live and spend within their means. The right side applauded and the left side sat on their hands. Did that mean they did not want to live within their means? I wonder.

Well anyway, the Speaker did well. He sure made me proud. I can only imagine where he would be now if he served on the Novi Planning Commission.

I guess that most of us have not taken the opportunity to visit our State Capital building, and if you have not, you don't know what you are missing. It is a magnificent building with a great history. The Speaker's office is a sight to behold. With 20-foot ceilings and detailed craftsmanship everywhere you look, it is a must-see for all. The door hinges have the Seal of Michigan

Lou Csordas is the mayor of the City of Novi. He can be reached at (248) 347-0460.

Pope might have to wait awhile before Gumbleton calls it quits

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton is supposed to write a letter to Pope John Paul II this Wednesday. Trouble is, he doesn't want to do it.

"Traditionally, you are supposed to write to the Pope on your 75th birthday and offer to resign," Michigan's most politically controversial bishop said, chuckling softly over breakfast. "But it's so arbitrary — some of them they ignore, but if you are the least bit progressive, they accept it immediately."

If that's the case, the Vatican may accept his resignation. Bishop Tom has no desire to lay his burden down, and who was changed forever by it. He believes the church has a role to play, "standing up and safeguarding human rights for everyone." And as a bishop of the church, he feels it is his job to help lead that struggle.

That mission has taken him, a man who resembles a gentle, kindly Irish elf, to El Salvador and Iraq and a dozen other countries. He has just come back from Haiti, where he helped get a prominent priest, Fr. Gerald Jean-Jacques, released from prison, and he plans to go back soon.

He's been in Vietnam and Guatemala and a dozen other places, usually staying with the poorest of the poor, sometimes tempting dictators and spies.

Even if he is forced into retirement, he intends to continue his travels. Why? What influenced Tom Gumbleton most was a Vatican II document on the church's role in the modern world. "If you are saving

souls one at a time you really aren't going to get very far," he said. But as he sees it, the church's role should be to try and "transfer this world into as close an image of the reign of God, what the reign of God might look like, as possible."

"That would be a world," he said, where everyone has enough to live decently, and also where their human and political rights aren't trampled on.

That view of his role and the church he has caused him to fast and commit acts of civil disobedience and irritate numerous governments, including his own.

Those sentiments are more or less out of fashion these days. He was one of the youngest (38) men ever to be ordained an auxiliary bishop by the pope.

He thinks the archdiocese should train a network of lay pastoral ministers, and send priests in to perform the sacraments. But his advice tends to be ignored. He admires John Cardinal Dearden and sometimes got into shouting matches with his successor, Edmund Cardinal Szoka. But the current archbishop, Adam Cardinal Malda, mostly just ignores him.

Bishop Tom prefers a dialogue, even at high decibels. He shrugs and smiles, looking out the window of a downtown deli in a neighborhood devastated by the closing of Tiger Stadium.

"Maybe you could send (the letter) by sea mail," suggested Rudy Simons, who has traveled with him to Iraq and Haiti. Simons, who is Jewish, told me every morning he found the bishop silently reading his Bible, and sometimes it would be hours before he spoke at all. I never believed in saints. Now, I am not so sure.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@hometowncomm.net.

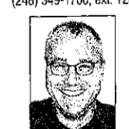
Correction

In a front-page article in the Jan. 20, 2005, issue on the fact that robbers hit banks in Novi, Wixom and Southfield on Jan. 12, it stated that the first bank robbery in Oakland County in 2004 was not until Feb. 30, which was incorrect. The first bank robbery in the county occurred during the second week in February, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@h1homecomm.net

EVENTS

After Hours Mixer

DATE: Thursday, Jan. 27
TIME: 5 p.m.
LOCATION: Sheraton Detroit
NOVI, 21111 Haggerty Rd., Novi
DETAILS: Join fellow Novi
Chamber of Commerce mem-
bers, partnering with the Livonia
Chamber to mix, mingle and
make connections. Cost is \$10.
CONTACT: (248) 349-3743

Walled Lake City Library magic show

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 29
TIME: 11 a.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake City
Library, 1499 E. West Maple
Road.
DETAILS: This is a comedy
magic show the whole family
will enjoy. Registration required.
CONTACT: Call the library at
(248) 624-3772.

Tsunami Relief Concert

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 29
TIME: 5:10 p.m.
LOCATION: Great Escape,
2630 E. Grand River Ave., west
of Larson Road, east of down-
town Howell
DETAILS: "Operation: Rare to
Preserve Life", a five-band
rock and roll show to raise
money to donate to the tsunami
victims via the American Red
Cross. The bands that will be
performing are Solidus,
(Hartland), Tired By Tiring
(Hartland), Boston Ivy
(Brighton) and Caledon Skies
(Hartland). Special guest per-
formers are Obscured (South
Lyon), Syndicate Records own
"Lil Shy" and DJ Skee from
The Rhino Dance Pub (South
Lyon). Admission is \$5 donation.
CONTACT: (313) 548-6457

Friends of the Foster Farmhouse

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 5
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Stonerest, 207
Liberty St., Walled Lake.
DETAILS: Students in first-
eighth grades are invited to enter
a poster of a Black history theme.
The public is invited to view the
posters and vote for best of show.
Suggested donation for child is \$5
per person or \$15 for a family of
four.
CONTACT: Call (248) 624-
5727 for reservations, poster
entries and more information.

West Rose Society Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 3
TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Community
Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile, Novi
DETAILS: Nancy Lindley of
Great Lakes Roses will present a
slide program of old garden
roses.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400

Novi Chamber of Commerce Auditions

DATES: Feb. 3, children; Feb.
5, adults
TIMES: Feb. 3, 4-6 p.m.; Feb.
5, 2 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic
Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.,

Novi
DETAILS: Audition packets
are now available at the Civic
Center.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400

Single Mingle Dance

DATES: Feb. 4
LOCATIONS: Doubletree
Guest Suites
TIME: 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
DETAILS: Hosted by
Metropolitan Single
Professionals. Admission is \$5
for members; \$9 for non-mem-
bers. Top 40 DJ, cash bar, hors
d'oeuvres and door prizes.
CONTACT: (248) 544-6445 or
(248) 851-9909 or
www.mspsc.com

City of Wixom Mardi Gras Festival

DATE: Feb. 4
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom
Community Center, 49915
Pontiac Tr.
DETAILS: The fee is \$15 per
person and includes readings,
crystal ball, palm, card and
astrology. There will be a
Disco/land band, heads and mask
appetizers, dessert, soda and col-
fee. Cash bar is available - beer
and wine.
CONTACT: For more info, or
to register by phone, call (248)
624-2850 or register online at
www.cityofwixom.com.

High School Athletic Code of Conduct Revision Public Forum

DATES: Thursday, Jan. 27,
high school auditorium lecture
hall A and Thursday, Feb. 24,
high school auditorium lecture
hall B.
TIMES: 7-8:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Forums to include
discussion of random drug test-
ing, Jan. 27; review of draft docu-
ment and collection of ques-
tions submitted at previous forum
and new questions.

Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Tuesdays at Assarian"

DATE: Every Tuesday night
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer
Center, 47601 Grand River Ave.,
Novi.
DETAILS: Variety of activities
for the adult community to come
and enjoy a
unique mix of classes spon-
sored by the Providence Center
for the Healing Arts. Some activ-
ities may include a supplies fee
(no more than \$10).
CONTACT: (248) 465-5483

SUPPORT GROUPS

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 3
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Educational
Services Building, 25345 Taft
Rd., Novi
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

Moms Club of Novi

DATE: meetings first Thursday
of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic
Center
DETAILS: The MOMS Club®
(MOMS Offering Moms
Support®) is a non-profit support
group, specifically aimed at
meeting the needs of mothers
who choose to stay at home with
their children, including those
who work out of their homes, as
well as those who work part-
time.
CONTACT: dinatallan@se-
globel.net

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth
Tuesdays of the month.
LOCATION: Huron Valley-
S Sinai Hospital, Commerce,
Classroom C on the ground floor
of the hospital.
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: There is no need to
register.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Dakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes

DATE: ongoing series.
LOCATION: Oakland County
Health Division, 1010 East West
Maple Rd., Walled Lake.
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes will be
taught by public health nurses.
Topics will include childbirth
preparation, labor and delivery,
care of the newborn baby, breast-
feeding, bottle-feeding, informa-
tion about keeping children safe
and caring for them when they
are ill. Cost is \$25.
CONTACT: (248) 858-4003,
or (888) 350-0900, ext. 84003

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: every Saturday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest
continued on back page

BUSINESS

Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday
LOCATION: Novi Civic
Center, 45175 Ten Mile Rd.
TIME: 7:30-9:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local
professionals and business look-
ing to increase word-of-mouth
referral business. Various classifi-
cations open and eager to bring
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CONTACT: (734) 462-6460

CLASSES

Novi Community Education Seminars

DATES: Mondays, Feb. 7 and
Feb. 28
TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle
School, Eleven Mile and Wixom
Road, Feb. 7, Room 206; Feb.
28, Room 202.
DETAILS: Novi Community
Education Center will sponsor
two seminars on the Market
Outlook of 2005 and Investing
Strategies featuring Rick Bloom,
of Bloom Asset Management.
There is a \$17 fee and reserva-
tions are required. CON-
TACT: Call Joyce Robb at (248)
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SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

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HOUSE CALLS

By Botsford General Hospital

EASY WAYS TO CUT CALORIES

Does it seem like over the years the pounds have snuck up on you? You're not alone. On average, adults typically gain one and a half to two pounds a year. Simply cutting back a little each day can help you maintain your weight. Pair these small changes in your food choices with regular exercise and you're on your way to a healthier life.

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NEXT WEEK: REDUCE YOUR RISK FOR HEART DISEASE

Botsford care. It's not just what we do. It's how we do it.

Botsford Care
40 YEARS
BOTSFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL

This health tip is brought to you by Botsford General Hospital. For a board-certified physician near you, call Botsford's HealthMatch toll-free at (877) 442-7900

www.botsfordsystem.org

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road, Northville (West of Haggerty)
248-374-5920

email - single.point@wardchurch.org

Call 248-374-5920 To Register \$20

Friday February 11th, 7-9pm
Saturday February 12th, 9am-3pm
(In the Chapel)

Get into right relationships, know if it's right, stay in it and keep it healthy, handle it if it ends and much more.

2 Days that could change how you relate forever

FAST, EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE

248-982-7038

TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY

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Liberty Tax Service

\$30 Off Tax Preparation Fees

With Coupon. Expires 2/2/05.

Excludes fees for bank. New customers only.

Novi 41745 W. 10 Mile Rd. (10 Mile & Meadowbrook) 248-465-1829

Garden City 20540 Ford Rd. (In front of K Mart) 734-423-6629

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continued from page 20
Adoption Playgroup

DATE: first and third Fridays of the month.
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Road between Ten Mile and Grand River Avenue).
DETAILS: A nonprofit, non-denominational group that brings adoptive families together. Twice-a-month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation.
CONTACT: Michelle Pergeau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: first and third Tuesdays of the month.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room.
TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.
CONTACT: Colleen (248) 685-9226

New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

DATE: Wednesdays mornings
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi.
TIME: 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
DETAILS: \$20 per annual membership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.

EXPO CENTER

The following events will be held at the Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Drive, Novi (southwest corner of Novi Road and I-96).

Home Improvement Show

DATES: Jan. 28-30
TIMES: Fri. noon-9 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
DETAILS: The 13th Annual Novi Home Improvement Show features over 300 exhibitors including the latest technology, products and services for kitchens, baths, doors, windows, remodeling, heating, cooling and more. Parking is \$5.
CONTACT: (248) 737-4477 or www.builders.org

Motorama

DATES: Feb. 4-6
TIMES: Fri. 4-10 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

DETAILS: Motorcycles, cars, motorsports, muscle cars, memorabilia and more. Cost is \$7; free for ages 12 and under. Parking is \$5.
CONTACT: (248) 348-6942 or www.motorama-michigan.com

The Michigan Motorcycle Show

DATES: Feb. 4-6
TIMES: Fri. 4-9 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Street bikes, motocross, dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, racing bikes and accessories, travel packages, apparel, clubs, tours and more. Cost is \$7; free for ages 12 and under. Parking is \$5.
CONTACT: (248) 348-6942 or http://michiganmotorcycleshow.com

HEALTH

includes lunch and materials. Registration is required.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Boost Camp Day

DATE: Friday, Feb. 4
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Medical Building, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: A day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wholeness that can be very beneficial to the participants. Event is open to the public. Cost is \$50 per person;

Pilates at the Park

DATE/TIME: Mondays 7-8 a.m., Jan. 24-March 14 (Conference Room C); Mondays 4:15-5:15 p.m., Jan. 24-March 14 (Conference Room B); Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 p.m., Jan. 26-March 15 (Conference Room C)
LOCATION: Providence Park (southwest corner of Beck Road and Grand River Avenue), Novi

DETAILS: Rehabilitation Services will be offering Pilates mat training classes, an effective form of exercise to strengthen, stretch and streamline one's body with minimum stress on joints. The cost for the program is \$120. Due to limited class size, it's recommended to register early.
CONTACT: (248) 465-4416

HOURS: Monday, noon-8 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: Flu shots are available only to high-risk priority groups. Cost is \$7. Medicare and Medicaid insurance can be billed to cover the cost. Bring photo identification; proof of Oakland residency is required.
CONTACT: Flu vaccine hotline, (800) 434-3358

and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents (fees are for the entire evening).
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

SWOCC Studio Tours

DATE: ongoing.
LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Rd., Farmington.
DETAILS: Come in for an up-close-and-personal look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios, your local community television studio. SWOCC offers tours to many organizations, such as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and service clubs. The groups also have an opportunity to make a short promo for the public access channel, INFO TV-12.
CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840

Schoolcraft College Choral Union Auditions

DATE: Call for audition appt.
LOCATION: Schoolcraft College Forum Building, Room 310, 18600 Haggerty Rd., Livonia.
DETAILS: All voice parts welcome.
CONTACT: Shari Clason (248) 349-8175 or dpcsec@aol.com, Re: auditions

Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to cstone@hi.homecomm.net.

Providence Alternatives to Hysterectomy Seminar

DATE: Thursday, Mar. 3
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Hospital and Medical Center, Novi.
DETAILS: There are new surgical techniques for treating a variety of problems that may help women avoid a hysterectomy. This seminar is part of the monthly Providence Hospital Women's Health Series. It will feature Alan Newman, M.D., Providence Hospital obstetrician/gynecologist. There is no charge for the event.
CONTACT: For more information or to register, call 1-800-806-2229.

ONGOING

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Monday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Dr. (activity room, main floor)
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents (fees are for the entire evening).
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Rd. (activity room, main floor)
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi resi-

Oakland County Health Division Flu Shots

DATE: ongoing until supplies are depleted.
LOCATION: Pontiac Office, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd. (north of Elizabeth Lake Rd.) in the Oakland County complex, building 36E.

Great Lengths

The unparalleled extension system that will make your desire for thicker, longer, more beautiful hair a reality. 100% human hair strands, the limitations presented by all other extensions systems are eliminated. For length, volume, color enhancement, or simply to update your current style. There are no styling limitations, no heavy-duty maintenance regimen. Great Lengths is your hair because of its unique bonding method. You get all of these advantages without ever compromising the integrity of your natural hair.



Our Certified Great Lengths Technician will share with you in detail exactly what Great Lengths can accomplish for you, based upon your specific needs and desired results.

Schedule your Great Lengths Consultation today. The hair you've always wanted will be yours tomorrow. Call Gjelov's Salon & Spa today, 248-349-9003.



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MI 48375 • 248-349-9003

SAVE BIG ON ALL BLINDS & WALLPAPER

FREE Shop-at-Home Service
We'll bring the store to you! Let our team of trained professionals help you choose the style and color that's best for every room of your home. Select from a full assortment of blinds, window shades, shutters, curtains, top treatments and more!
Call 800-391-4823 and press "2" for a FREE appointment and details.

Always 25%-85% Off
most retail store prices
FREE MEASURING & INSTALLATION*

American BLINDS, WALLPAPER & MORE
www.americanblinds.com
800-391-4823

Shop our Showrooms!
Stawling Heights located at 19 1/2 Mile Road between Merrill Road and Utica Road
Plymouth located at 909 N. Sheldon Road just South of M-14
Call for detailed directions.

Shoproom Hours
Mon-Fri.....9:30am-7pm Sat.....9am-6pm
Thur.....9:30am-9pm Sun.....11am-5pm

Levolor® • Duette® • Kirsch® • American® • Silhouette® • Hunter Douglas® & more

12-17 Month Certificate of Deposit.

3.35%
Annual Percentage Yield*

Bank	12-17 Months APY
Flagstar Bank	3.35% APY
Fifth Third Bank	2.45% APY
Bank One	2.25% APY
Comerica Bank	2.25% APY
Charter One	1.45% APY

Flagstar's APY is effective as of 1/21/05. Other APY's are effective as of 1/14/05. APY information provided by Informa Research Services. Competitors' minimum deposits and terms may vary.

Ask about Flagstar's Best Rate Guarantee**

Flagstar gives you the Freedom.

*Certificates of Deposit: Annual Percentage Yield (APY) of 3.35% is effective as of 1/21/05 on a 12-17 month certificate of deposit. Minimum opening balance requirement is \$500 and maximum deposit is \$100,000. Deposits are allowed only on the maturity date or during the grace period. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Interest compounded quarterly. Rates are effective for a limited time only and subject to change without notice. Not available for public units. **Customer must have an active checking account to qualify for the Best Rate Guarantee. Flagstar will guarantee qualified customers the best rate published at any FDIC insured institution in the county in which their Flagstar retail bank is located. Customer must provide evidence of the best rate prior to CD account opening. Certain restrictions may apply.

Member FDIC www.flagstar.com

FLAGSTAR BANK

Member FDIC

Medicare recipients: Good news you've been waiting for.

HAP SENIOR PLUS COVERAGE INCLUDES:

- 100% Hospitalization
- 100% Inpatient physician services
- **13 Copay for doctors' office visits*
- Worldwide emergency coverage (\$50 copay)**
- 100% Home health care
- Routine eye examinations
- Outpatient prescription drugs (\$400 annual)**
- And much more

senior plus
powered by **hap**

If you're a Medicare beneficiary with Medicare Parts A and B and live in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb county, HAP is pleased to announce that Henry Ford Medical Group (HFMG) is now accepting new Senior Plus members.

HAP Senior Plus is an alternative to Medicare supplemental insurance for a plan premium of only \$40 per month. Senior Plus is a federally qualified HMO with a Medicare contract.

* Routine inpatient hospital care is provided at Henry Ford Hospital.
** Medicare covered services. *** Coverage subject to limitations.

To get the facts about Senior Plus, call 1-800-971-7878, TTY/TTD 1-313-664-8000.

POF05020029 NPSA 1/1/05



Scoreboard

The combined Northville-Novu Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team, which includes Kylea Kohl, escaped with two impressive victories last week with wins over Salem and Canton, 137.55-129.95 and 143.65-141.7, respectively.

— Page 2B



Studies and skates

Emily Samuelson wants to be an Olympian. She knows it takes hard work, dedication and determination, but she's not willing to give up her social life or her time at Novi High School. Find out how she keeps everything balanced and still stays at the top of her game.

— Page 3B



Regional Marketplace

"Buying on eBay is easy, but selling on eBay is much harder," said Mark Newton, who owns and operates the iSold It franchise in Novi. "Customers bring their merchandise to us because we make the process simple."

— Page 4B

SPORTS

1B - NOVI NEWS

www.hometownlife.com

Thursday, January 27, 2005

Quick Hits



Friendly rivals

Novi basketball coach Pat Schluter and South Lyon coach Daren Clayton go way back. Not only are they good friends, they're good rivals.

In a day and age where teams go to fistfights on the court or on the field, it's nice to see a rivalry stay clean and competitive.

Clayton does a nice job of having his kids prepared, and everyone in Novi is well aware of just how capable Schluter is at turning a team into a competitor. Both are outstanding coaches and both are the kind that we'd like to see more of in the high school ranks.

What a response!

E-mails and phone calls have flowed in about our coverage of the hockey team's trip to the Upper Peninsula earlier this month. People have said they'd like to see more stories like that.

The solution is simple: Dan Phelps and his crew just need to keep making long treks to the middle of nowhere and we'll keep writing about them. A trip to Alaska would do our hearts good — plus a feature on how well Novi does on some of those outdoor high school rinks would hit the spot for our readers.

How does that sound? Nah, we didn't think so either.

Land a helping swing

There are a lot of good people trying to do good things for other people. Total Baseball, located in Wixom, is full of those kinds of people.

Their batting cages are popular and pull in plenty of cash on the weekends. This weekend, Sunday, Jan. 30 to be precise, the money the cages bring in from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. will go to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

The program, called "Hit a home run with MDA and Total Baseball," sounds like fun to us. Swing the bat, hit a few balls — it's a great time for all ages.

Total Baseball is located on Wixom Road, just south of Pontiac Trail. Raffle tickets will also be available for a chance at prizes.

All his rowdy friends

Michael Sadickas hosted 50 of his closest friends at his house Sunday night. Counted among them? None other than Clint Black, the country singing superstar. Black strummed his guitar, sang a few songs and then watched a little football. The people in the house, unfortunately, were cheering for Pittsburgh yet still managed to have smiles on their faces.

Black wasn't thrilled with the fact that the Houston Texans were far from making the playoffs.

"I don't have a dog in this fight," he said of the game.

The country and western singer had a beer, ate some of the catered food and spent time signing autographs for all the fans who came to see him.

The biggest change for Black wasn't the beer he was drinking, the songs he was singing or the people he was entertaining — it was the snow on the ground. He told a story about his 3-year-old daughter and how he talked to her on the phone. He told her there was snow and she asked about it.

"I told her it was about up to my knees," he said. "Then she asked 'Is it tickling your knees, daddy?' I told her I guess it was."

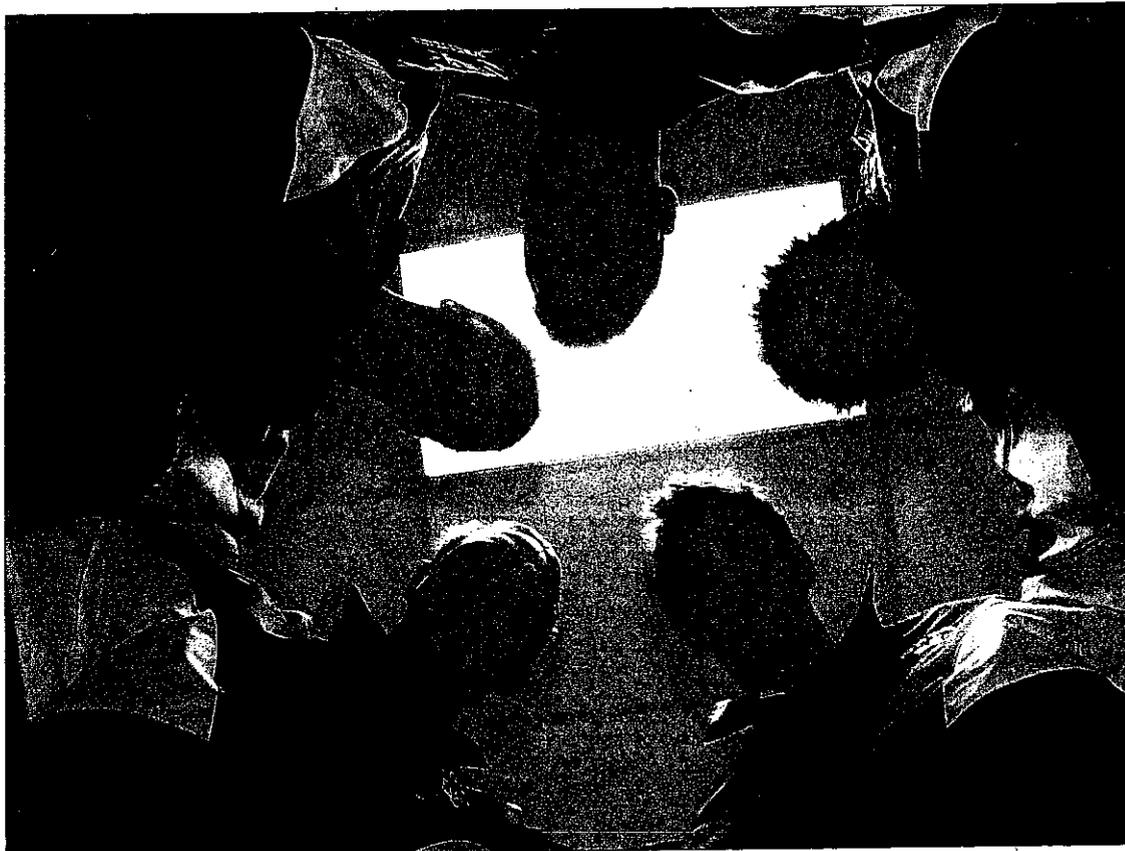


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi High School Wildcat wrestlers and leaders on the mat (from left, counter clockwise) Justin Cameron, Dan Sprys, Alex Baum, Jason Sierra, and John Favorite.

ABOVE ALL EXPECTATIONS

Teamwork's the ticket to Novi grapplers' success

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

In a sport where individuals are asked to succeed, it sometimes takes a team effort to get a season rolling in the right direction.

The Novi Wildcats wrestling team, coached by Brad Huss, has been blessed with outstanding individually-talented wrestlers over the years. The Churella brothers were the most recent, with their legacy continuing now at the University of Michigan.

Novi, however, doesn't have a wrestling "star" this year. Individuals no longer matter. It's all about team.

"Right now we're 11-3," said senior captain Justin Cameron. "That's better than any individual record on the team. Right now it's about team unity. It's about doing good and it's a lot more than one wrestler."

The team attitude is the right one. Novi is setting goals higher than they did last year when the season not only started roughly, but ended that way as well when the team bowed out to Northville in the district tournament.

"That's not going to happen this year," said junior captain Dan Sprys. "We beat them pretty good earlier this year, but we're not going to go in overlooking them in the district."

Going for the goal

Team goals this year have been simple: wrestle to the best of their ability and come away with a berth into the region.

"We really want to get out of the district this year," said Cameron. "I believe we can do it. We have the right tools. If everything falls into place for us, we might even make it out of the regional. We'll at least give everyone a run for their money."

But what has been driving this team? It's the last season for veteran coach Tom Fritz and the first for his replacement, Corey Grant.

"It's about time he takes some time for himself," said Cameron. "We're going to miss Fritz in the program. He's a guy that everyone is going to miss. He's always



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Jason Sierra wrestles with a teammate in Novi's training room.

been there and, in a way, I'm sure he always will be."

It's also a year where every wrestler is willing to step up and become a leader.

"This team is really self motivated," said Cameron. "Everyone knows what they have to do to win. They want to do good, they love to win and they're sticking with it."

The team's attitude is an exciting one for family, friends, fans and, most importantly, fellow wrestlers.

"I'm very excited with how well this team has started," said Sprys. "I think if we put our mind toward our goals and work together as a team, we can accomplish a lot

more than expected."

Tough as nails

The Wildcats know where they stand this year. They aren't the favorites for any title and, quite frankly, they shouldn't be. They are a team of underdogs, and it's a role they're enjoying.

"I think we've surprised a few people," said Cameron. "We'd like to finish as strong as we've started. Hopefully, things work out for the best."

Novi isn't fooling around about which team is the cream of the crop in the Kensington Valley Conference though. Last season three teams from the KVC

were ranked in the top 10 in the state. Hartland was the best of the league, and they are again this year.

"They are just an absolutely amazing team," said Sprys of the Eagles. "We went out and we wrestled them as hard as we could. We just couldn't find anything that worked."

But that doesn't mean Novi is giving up when it comes to taking on squads from their conference. Quitting just isn't a definition that has been taught to them during their time in the Novi school district.

"If you can do well in the KVC, you can do well anywhere in the state," Sprys added.

Practice makes perfect

Novi's coach, Huss, doesn't take any prisoners in the world of wrestling. His kids work hard, and when things get rough, they work just a little harder to make it right.

The captains said their team doesn't mind. It's all a part of the sport.

"It's a hard sport. A lot of people just don't realize how hard it is," said Cameron. "You're always trying to cut weight, and you work out for four hours every day. It's really hard, but that's all a part of it. We don't wrestle because it's easy; we do it because it's hard."

The physical nature of the sport demands that those who participate in it are prepared. But there's a mental aspect a wrestler has to be prepped for as well.

"I'd say it's about 50-50 (mental and physical)," said Sprys. "If you don't have your mind focused on the sport, you're not going to be very successful. That's half of it. The other half you have to outlast your opponents. If they're tired in the third period and you're not, you have a big advantage."

Novi does have the advantage. It's not a special move or a secret strategy. It's the advantage of working as a team.

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By the numbers

11-3

Novi's record in wrestling, thanks to some great team unity.

5

Total of come-from-behind points scored by Novi hockey in their last two games.

3

Wins Novi cheer earned at Milford in freshman, JV and varsity.

143.65

Points scored by Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team last week, their highest this year.

16

Kills Novi junior Jenna Kuhn tallied in a Wildcats' volleyball victory.

6

Points earned by Novi wrestling against defending champ Hartland.

14

Points by senior Mark Moore in basketball versus South Lyon. He also had 12 rebounds.

Wildcat cagers remain at the top of their conference

The message is clear — it's going to take one heck of a team to dethrone the Novi Wildcats basketball team.

They are defending Kensington Valley Conference champions and look as though they're determined to repeat again.

The Wildcats, led by Pat Schluter, earned a dominating 48-29 victory over the South Lyon Lions last week after edging Brighton in a highly-contested match-up, 60-53.

Against the Lions, Novi found themselves trailing early, 11-9, before finding the right spark. Mark Moore, a senior captain, sank three jump shots in the second quarter and struggled four times to help the Wildcats to a 22-18 lead by the half.

The third quarter was a neck-and-neck affair with the Lions refusing to be put away and Novi maintaining just a 31-27 lead when the final quarter rolled around.

It was then Novi showed it's true colors, sparking a 15-2 run through the final stanza as Steve Hart, a junior, scored eight points in the last three minutes and hauled down three rebounds.

Moore led Novi with 14 points and 12 rebounds for a dunk-and-bounce, while Hart added 10 points and nine rebounds. Anthony Hartin, a senior, chipped in 11 points while A.W. Stanek scored four points.

Novi is now 9-1 on the year and undefeated in the KVC.

Against Brighton, it was the Hartin show and the Bulldogs were wishing they could change the channel.

After just five minutes of play to open the game, Hartin had eight points to help his team to a 16-12 advantage at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter found Novi continuing their lead before Brighton went on a run in the third before eventually tying the game on a long three-point field goal.

With the game tied, Todd Jauer stepped to the three-point line and drained two shots to put the Wildcats up by six.

Novi held off another attempted run by Brighton before earning the hardy victory.

Hartin was unstoppable at times and scored 22 points at times and three assists despite several Brighton adjustments against him. Jauer scored 16 points and Moore added 10 in the winning effort.

Rough week on ice

The question has to be circulating through coach Dan Phelps's mind — just how good would his squad be if they didn't have to play from behind?

His team tied a game and lost one last week by playing away from home to two Kensington Valley Conference foes. Against Howell, Novi skated to a 3-3 tie after losing to Pinckney, 3-2, just days before.

The Wildcats found themselves down 3-0 following the first period of play against Howell last Thursday, but bounced back to score three of their own for the tied game.

Bob Jausi, a senior, scored the first goal of the night on assists from Chris Zarem and Tom Ciavarella. Minutes later, Ciavarella added a score of his own from a Zarem Pass to cut the Highlanders' lead to 3-2.

Jausi knew something had to be done as time ticked off the clock in the third period. Taking a pass from Mike Arnold, Jausi did what he had to do, adding his second goal of the game to knot it up at 3-3 in the third.

Justin Rucolo earned the tie in net, stopping a fierce Highlanders offense throughout the second and third periods.

Novi is now 3-3 in the KVC. There was no treasure to be found at the Kensington Valley Ice House last week, but the Pirates of Pinckney were busy raiding Novi nonetheless.

The Wildcats found themselves down 2-0 in the first period of play following some disciplined hockey from their Piratic foes. Novi added a goal of their own in the second period of a shot from Ciavarella, who was assisted by Mark Eberline and R.J. Makoski. But, the Pirates tallied their own goal to keep a 3-1 lead heading into the third period.

Novi skated as well as they have all season in the third stanza, dominating their opponents and scoring their final goal. Ran Fox took assistance from Eberline and Mike Arnold to cut the lead, but a well-played game by Pinckney's goalie kept the game from being tied despite five breakaways by the Wildcats.

Brad Clov suffered the loss between the posts.

Convincing victory

The Novi Wildcats volleyball team knew they would have to make some noise this season to be considered a contender for the Kensington Valley Conference title.

Consider the noise to have been made.

Novi dominated their foes from South Lyon, 25-17, 25-14 and 25-14 to earn the victory.

South Lyon's coach, Jen Mairka, didn't need any convincing of Novi's ability. Following the South Lyon Invitational in December, she stated she expected the 'Cats to be one of the strongest teams in the league.

Novi didn't disappoint. Coached by Julie Fisetne, the team improved their record to 15-3 overall with a 9-2 win over the year with a 3-0 KVC record.

Leading the way for the Wildcats was Jenna Kahn, who had 16 kills to help her squad to the victory while Amanda Talbot added eight digs.

Collecting eight digs and three kills for South Lyon was Emily Faltner.

Grapplers split week

A pair of Eagles came to town on Friday for a KVC quad meet, and saw the Wildcats leave with mixed emotions.

The night started with the Wildcats dominating the Lakeland Eagles 60-15. Picking up wins for the 'cats were Al Vellahottani, Nick Lichenbrow, Adam Ballanyne, Ridley Larson, Jason Sierra, Alex Uffers, Sanchez, Jon Favarone, Dan Sprys, Justin Towne and Alex Calvert.

In wings waited the second ranked team in the state, the Hartland Eagles. This time around the Wildcats weren't as fortunate. The Eagles came away with a 6-4 victory, with the lone 'Cat win coming from Baum.

After splitting the two matches, Novi stand at 11-3, with a 2-1 record in the KVC.

Two big victories

The combined Northville-Novu Wild 'Stangs gymnastics teams excelled with two impressive victories last week with wins over Salem and Canton. The Wildcats posted 143.65-141.7, respectively.

Against Canton, the Wild 'Stangs earned their highest point total of the year on the way to their win. In



Photo by JOHN HEIDER
Gymnast Kylea Kohl has helped the Wild 'Stangs jump ahead of the competition this year.

vault, Amanda Perelli led the way with an impressive score of 9.3 coming from the judges. Julie Foucher wasn't far behind, scoring a 9.05 in the same event while Jenna Ramsey added a 9.0 to help her team to the win.

The bars were dominated by Maggie Mills, who scored a 9.15 while Sarah Ikkani-Pour added an 8.6 and Perelli notched an 8.5. The beam found Rachel Deneau scoring a 9.25 while Foucher added a 9.0 and Courtney Paul scored an 8.75.

The floor exercise had an outstanding performance from Mills, a senior captain, leading the way. She scored a 9.6 while Deneau added a 9.2 and Perelli scored a 9.05.

Overall against Canton, Mills led her pack with a total of 36.1 points while Foucher collected a 35.35 and Perelli added a 35.1.

Against Salem, the Wild 'Stangs found plenty of support coming from a variety of sources. Jacqueline Gazette led the way on the vault, scoring an 8.9 while Emma Platt added an 8.8. Foucher notched a 9.05, while Perelli scored an 8.7 from her own from the judges.

On the bars, Foucher led the way with an 8.7 while Perelli scored an 8.55 and Mills earned an 8.25. Perelli was back on the beam, collecting an 8.4 to lead Northville. Novi while Ramsey earned an 8.3 and Jessica Glancy, a senior captain, collected an 8.1.

The floor routine from Deneau earned her a 9.5 while Foucher collected a 9.35 and Mills carded a 9.25.

Overall, the Wild 'Stangs were led by Foucher with 34.65 points while Perelli added 33.2 and Platt scored 31.65.

Minced Mavericks

It was a good night to be a Novi Wildcat cheerleader when the squad visited the Milford Mavericks last week in dual meet action.

Not only did the freshman and junior varsity teams win by default since Milford didn't present a competitive squad for either level, the varsity team made short work of their opponents, 576-367.

Novi earned high marks across the board, taking a 160.5 from the judges in the opening round while the points tallied up to 165.5 for the second round of competition. In the final round, the Wildcats pulled out all the stops and added 250 points to collect the victory.

— Compiled by Sam Eggleston

UNDERCLASSMAN SCORES

Basketball

The freshman basketball team played Brighton at home Jan. 18 and came away with a 44-40 victory.

The Wildcats started off the game quickly, jumping to a 15-4 lead before hitting a lull in the second quarter to let the Bulldogs back within five. Novi finished the quarter on a 6-0 run to take a 24-13 lead at halftime.

Novi was led in scoring by Yuta Kitagawa, who had 11 points. Collin Crandell added 10 points and Pat Schlenke chipped in four points.

The junior varsity Wildcats could not overcome a batch of turnovers as they lost to Brighton, 49-45.

Novi played outstanding defense in the first half, leading 19-18. The Bulldogs picked up the pressure in the second half to build a 12-point lead. The 'Cats made a valiant effort as they scrambled to get the game within reach but simply ran out of time at the end.

Novi was led again by Caleb Dean with 10 points. John Brown powered in nine points while Corlan White had seven. Two days later, the JV lost yet another close game as they fell to South Lyon, 47-45. The Wildcats played an outstanding first half as they took an 8-1 lead into halftime, 23-15.

But the Lions, the KVC's only undefeated team, came out with a 12-0 run to start the third quarter. The 'Cats withstood the run but could never distance themselves again from the Lions as the game went back and forth. Caleb Dean hit a game-tying shot with less than a minute to play but the 'Cats could not get the stop they needed as South Lyon hit a game winning lay-up with two seconds to play.

The Wildcats were led by Tyler Hoover's 12 points and 9 rebounds. Caleb Dean chipped in with 7 points and 8 rebounds. The Wildcats are now 2-3 KVC and 2-8 overall.

Volleyball

The junior varsity volleyball team lost to South Lyon Jan. 14 in a tightly contested match-up. Top stats came from Amanda Diacono with five aces, Lauren Purdy controlled the net with four blocks and Alexander Arbour, who took home 147.50 points from the judges.

Wright continued his strong day of swimming, taking first place in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:02.28 while Swift notched another first of his own in the 100 freestyle with a time of 1:39.90. Hornack was a far behind in the 100, taking second in 56.09 seconds.

In the 100 backstroke, Novi was well represented with the top two spots. Taking first was Daniel Meister in 1:05.14 while Hornack took the next spot just one second behind, 1:06.12.

Deighton and Laduke went one and two, respectively, in the 100 breaststroke to finish up Novi's events. Deighton finished in just 1:13.76 while Laduke was second in 1:15.36.

The freshman volleyball squad had the same fate as they lost to South Lyon. The Lions took the first and second games coming back from an eight-point deficit. South Lyon took the fourth in a close match.

Wrestling

Mike Cash did it again, but this time it was at Garden City High School. Cash led the sophomore team at the 39th annual Garden City Novice tournament with his third tournament championship in as many weeks.

Just like the previous two tournaments, he was untouchable. Cash made short work of his first two opponents by pinning both before having a rematch in the finals. For the second straight week, Cash was matched up against James Satterly of Westland John Glenn. This time around he earned a pin. Cash overcame an early injury, and a 4-2 deficit, to pin his John Glenn opponent late in the third period.

Also placing for the sophomores was Adam Hero who was 6th at 125, Jeremy Young 5th at 140, Jamie Espinoza 4th at 145, and Brent Palfian 6th at 171.

The freshman team was led by Joe Pritchard and Ryan Rideour. Both wrestlers made their way into the finals for the first time. Pritchard, wrestling at 130, made it look easy in the early rounds. He pinned his first two opponents before falling to Jeremy Epfeys of Salsbury 1-11 in the finals.

Rideour, wrestling at 160, also pinned his first two opponents. Unfortunately, he was caught, and pinned, in the finals by Mike O'Keefe of Catholic Central.

Also placing for the freshman squad was Dethi Sabu who was 6th at 112, Dennis McHugh 3rd at 119, Robbie Yusko 5th at 125, Charles Satterwhite 5th at 215 and Alex Calvert who was 4th at heavyweight.

Cheerleading

On Jan. 13, the Novi Wildcats junior varsity and freshman cheer teams dominated the judging while on an away trip to Mt. Pleasant. Both teams walked away with victories.

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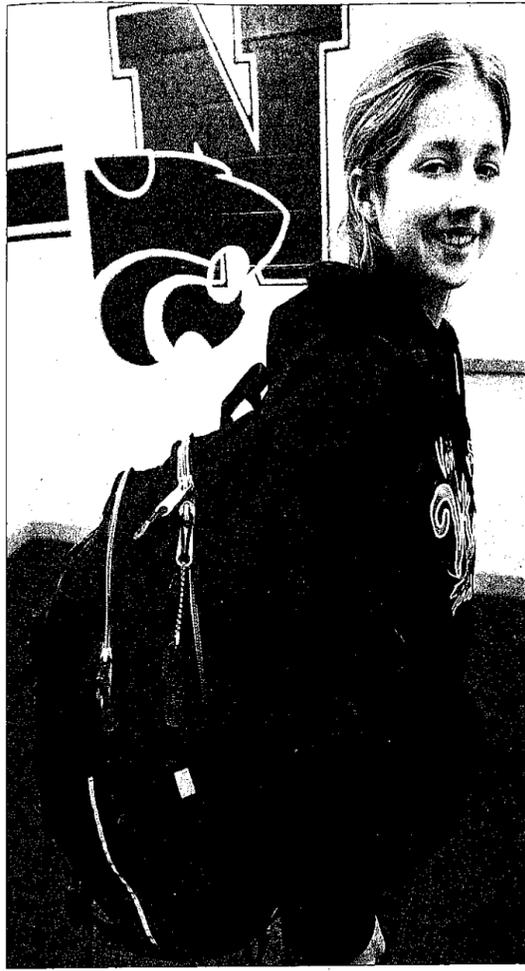
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Novi High School freshman Emily Samuelson is carrying both her bookbag and skating future on her back as she tries to juggle both.

Finding the right mix

■ Skater Emily Samuelson balances school, competitive skating with impressive results

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Novi freshman Emily Samuelson isn't going to beat around the bush. Two years after she graduates, she expects to be skating in the Olympics.

It's a cute statement to hear from any young athlete. But, one quick read over Samuelson's schedule and it doesn't take long to realize she's not just daydreaming — she's striving for her lofty goals.

"I'd really like to make the Olympics in 2010," she said from her home in Novi as she prepared to finish up some classes she takes over the Internet. "Then, hopefully, I'll make it again in 2014."

Samuelson is well on her way to the glory only an Olympic berth can bring. The young skater and her partner, Evan Bates of Ann Arbor, recently took first place at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships that were held in Oregon. After taking first in both compulsory rounds, the duo skated their way to a first-place overall finish against some tough competition.

"We skated very well," Samuelson said. "There was a chance that we could have been knocked out of first place and that made me a little nervous, but we weren't. After the scores were announced I was so excited."

The pace and the intensity was nothing new to the pair, who have been competing across the nation for several years. It hasn't been uncommon for them to place high in the judges' rankings no matter what event they've skated at.

And why not? They put in the time. Samuelson attends Novi High School for the first two classes of her day before departing around 10:30-11 a.m. for practice at the Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.

There she spends about three hours on the ice and the rest doing practice off ice, such as dancing, ballet and in the ball room.

"It's a lot of work, but it's worth it," Samuelson said. The freshman finishes up her final two classes of the day on her home computer. She said through her schedule is hectic, Novi School District has always gone out of its way to be helpful.

"They've always been very accommodating," she said. "It really makes things easier for me."

Samuelson, like many young, aspiring athletes, could easily spend the time she takes out of her day for public school and use it on the ice. However, her par-

ents, Joanie and Jon, have made it clear they'd rather she stuck with her current setup.

"They want me to attend a public school," she said. "They know I benefit from it socially. I like going to Novi and I wouldn't want to change it even if I could."

When she isn't busy working on the ice or fine tuning the art of her skating off the ice, Samuelson is busy with school work and maintaining her hectic schedule. If time permits, and it rarely does, she becomes a typical high school freshman girl.

"I love to hang out with my friends and I love to shop," she said. "When I get a chance to take a quick break, that's what I do."

With a schedule like the Samuelson's, it's any wonder she knows what a social life is. But, careful decisions by her parents, patience from her school district and a desire to maintain a balanced life have given her all the tools she needs to succeed — on and off the ice.

Olympics by 2010? Just hold on a minute while Samuelson pencils that in on her schedule. It doesn't sound like it will be too hard for her to squeeze it in.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@hi.homecomcast.net.

"Hunter's Trophy Case"

Clint Adkins from Pinckney shot a 15 point buck with a 20 and 3/4 inch spread November 27, 2004. Congratulations

SPORTS SHORTS

Baseball registration

The Lakes Athletic Association baseball league will be accepting registration for the 2004 season at the Walled Lake Central High School cafeteria on Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The baseball association offers a competitive environment for boys and girls ages 5-18. Call (248) 975-8157 for more information.

Knights looking for players

The Dearborn Heights Knights (12 & under) travel baseball team will be scheduling tryouts for the 2005 baseball season. The Knights are the Pee Wee Reese (11 year old) champions for the NorthWest Suburban League. On their schedule will be the Cooperstown Dreams Park tournament located near the Baseball Hall of Fame. For further information, contact Rich Gruetz at 1-(800) 949-9834.

Coaching positions available

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District is currently looking for a head girls track and field coach at Walled Lake Western High School. The district is also

Baseball Hitting Leagues

Total Baseball's Indoor Hitting Leagues will have 4 players per team to hit off batting machines in a point award-one-hour game. Their will be awards to champions and best hitter. The league runs Feb. 19-March 20. Scorekeepers will be provided. Boys baseball: 9 a.m.-noon, Saturdays, 13 years and under; 4-9 p.m., Sundays, high school ages. The fees are \$45 per individual/\$155 per team. The games are held at Total Baseball, 30990 Wixom Road, Wixom. Call Total Baseball to register at (248) 668-0166 or check their Web site, www.total-baseball.com.

Mid-Winter Baseball/Softball Camp

(Softball and baseball camps are separate). Total Baseball's baseball/softball camp will feature professional instruction from Aaron Knieper, Montreal Expos, Lee Bjerke, Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame member, and Jessie Milosek, Bowling Green University softball. Hitting, pitching, fielding, baserunning and more will be covered in this fundamental camp. Session 1: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 14, 15 and 16; Session 2: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Feb. 21, 22 and 23. The cost is \$140 per player/\$10 discount for second child. This camp is for youth 7-17 years old. Space is limited. The camp is held at Total Baseball, 30990 Wixom Road, Wixom. To register, call (248) 668-0166 or email, totalballwixom@aol.com or check their Web site, www.total-baseball.com.

Indoor Baseball Leagues

This is a new style of baseball: 7 versus 7 players, 6 innings, live pitching, colored balls, announcers, music and umpires fees are included. Age divisions are: u10, u12 teams limited. The games are 8:30

YOUTH SPORTS

ThunderCats roar!

The Novi ThunderCats Squirt team traveled to Bay City, Michigan the weekend of Jan. 14 to participate in the January Freeze Hockey Tournament. The team won the championship by going a perfect 5-0 over the weekend, beating teams from Cadillac, Cheboygan, Mt. Pleasant and

Blue Water. The Thundercats played great team hockey and solid defense while goalie Matt McCracken posted two shut-outs.

It was the second tournament championship for the ThunderCats this season having won the Brad Stone Fall Classic in Farm. Team members include Sean Danaher, Daniel

Denova, Nicholas Doyle, Paul Fowler, Erik Frasier, Cody Jones, Elizabeth Malcar, Matthew McCracken, Daniel Meyers, Daniel Middleton, A.J. Patrick, Benjamin Stone, Sean Suszek, John Tierney, Alison Trainor and Alex Turner. The ThunderCats are coached by Dan Meyers, Geoff Middleton, Rob Stone and Chris Fowler.

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Thursday, January 27, 2005

NFIB UPDATE

Small business serves more than customers

You know some of them as your neighbors and friends. You rely on some for quality products and services. You see their names on Little League uniforms; their banners fly high over community picnics; and their brands sponsor high school yearbooks.

But it is unlikely that you will read about them in the newspaper or see them on the evening news.

They are small-business owners and they play a far greater role in the community than one might imagine.

American small businesses may not be big in size but they are enormous contributors to their communities, giving roughly \$40 billion over the past year alone, according to a poll conducted for the NFIB Research Foundation.

There is no reason for you to know that. News coverage of business activities is dominated by high profile, negative stories such as corporate scandals or bankruptcies. But for every company that runs afoul of the law, there are millions that quietly go about their business, abiding by the laws, paying more than their share of taxes and fending off over-zealous government regulators while still managing to create jobs and feed their families. And, while doing all of that, they contribute on a large scale to their communities.

You won't see much news coverage of a Saturday morning car wash at the local filling station or hear interviews of folks who volunteer long, hard hours at charities, but many of those activities wouldn't take place if it weren't for small-business owners.

It is no secret that they serve as job generators, innovators, creators of niche products and a buffer to the constant up-and-down business cycles. But rare is the media report that details the significant role small business plays in building and sustaining the civic and charitable foundation of America's communities.

In the past year, more than nine-of-10 small employers contributed to their communities by volunteering and providing in-kind contributions or cash donations, the poll found. More than two-fifths of those contributed in all three ways.

Seventy percent of respondents made cash contributions and one-in-10 of those donated more than \$10,000. The average cash donation was \$3,600. A similar number made in-kind contributions averaging \$4,000 each.

The 74 percent who say they volunteer for community and charitable activities spend, on average, more than 18 working days a year lending their considerable management and leadership skills to local organizations.

Why do small businesses give to their communities? Not to attract more business, the survey determined. Those responding said they did it primarily for personal satisfaction and fulfillment. Least important to them was any direct business benefit. Some indicated they gave to create a better business climate, others said their community activism was done to make their communities better places to live.

Small-business owners are not alone in contributing their time and resources to their communities, but it is important to recognize the contributions they have made, quietly and with little notice in the news.

Jack Faris is president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information is available on-line at www.NFIB.com.

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ADVERTORIAL



Photos by Duane Ramsey

Mark Newton operates the iSold It store in Novi where they help people to sell things on eBay.

iSold It

Business makes selling on eBay easy

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

Buying and selling items on eBay has become a popular method of commerce, but the process is not always easy. One local business, iSold It, has changed all that by creating "the easy way to sell on eBay."

"Buying on eBay is easy, but selling on eBay is much harder," said Mark Newton, who owns and operates the iSold It franchise in Novi. "Customers bring their merchandise to us because we make the process simple."

When a customer brings in an item, iSold It decides how to market it, professionally photographs the item, writes descriptive copy for it, and posts it on eBay. The firm also holds the item in inventory, manages the auction, answers any questions about it, processes payment from the winning bidder, packs and ships it to them.

"If you can carry it into the store, it's likely to meet our size and weight requirements," said Newton. "We'll give you an idea what it will sell for on eBay. If we accept it, we are 90 percent confident we'll sell it."

The iSold It store will sell almost any item with an expected value of \$30 or more that measures 130 inches in length and girth combined, weighs less than 150 pounds, and is legal to sell on eBay which does not

allow counterfeits, hazardous materials or other illegal items.

Newton said iSold It does not charge customers anything upfront to list an item on eBay. Once an item sells, iSold It deducts its commission and any eBay and payment transaction fees before issuing a check to the seller.

iSold It places items on eBay by for the usual seven-day auction period. Most of the action happens in the last few hours of the auction, Newton said. If the item doesn't sell, the customer can pick it up or donate it to charity.

At iSold It, they not only list and sell things for individuals but also handle many items for businesses. Newton's store has handled the liquidation of close-out items, overstocks, computers or office equipment and supplies for local companies.

Newton said they typically have from 180 to 200 items for sale on eBay at one time. In addition to everyday items sold on eBay, this iSold It store has listed and sold several rare collectibles such as a 1988 Swarovski Collectors Society crystal woodpecker that sold for more than \$1,000.

Frank Noto, a coin collector from Southfield, is a regular customer who brings in six to 10 items a week. Noto said he has sold about 50 silver, gold and copper coins on eBay through the iSold It store in Novi.

"We only deal with eBay," Newton said. "There are other competing online auction sites but nothing competes with the \$3.5 billion in merchandise sold



This iSold It employee prepares to photograph a product for listing on eBay.

on eBay last year."

Newton opened the first iSold It franchise in Michigan last July, becoming only the second franchise in the entire country. There are now more than 60 stores with more than 3,000 more committed.

Newton said he "just came across the opportunity at the right time" and thought it was an excellent service.

The Novi iSold It store is the only full-time location in the

area designated as a trading post by eBay. A trading post is a highly experienced trading assistant that provides drop-off locations with regular business hours, according to eBay.

As the largest trading post on eBay, iSold It sells more merchandise than any other trading source in the country, according to the company headquartered in California.

It's not a surprise that iSold It is involved in helping to raise

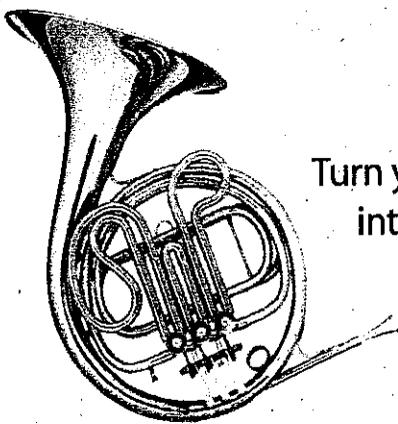
DETAILS
iSold It: The Easy Way to Sell on eBay 47760 Grand River in Novi between Kroger & Home Depot (248) 449-2828 www.isolditnovi.com
Hours: Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday noon-5 p.m.

funds for charitable organizations and schools. The business concept was created originally by Elise Wetzel as a method of raising money for a new playground at her children's school. From her idea for a school benefit came the foundation for iSold It.

The iSold It store in Novi is accepting items to sell for donation to CARE and its South Asia Disaster Relief Fund for tsunami victims. Newton said they also are looking to help local groups raise funds for charities and schools.

"We can hold drop-off drives at their school, charity location or our store to collect items for sale with the proceeds going to the school or organization," Newton said.

He encourages people and businesses to bring items they want to sell on eBay to the iSold It store, which is located between Kroger and Home Depot in the shopping center at the northwest corner of Beck Road and Grand River Avenue in Novi.



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*iSold It Trading Post is offering a lower commission rate, we will match it. Exceptions may apply. Sold a cash help and pay them, they have a maximum number of 200 or more on eBay weight less than 150 lbs and measure less than 130 inches in length x girth. The Trading Post location is an independent business, we cannot be sponsored by eBay Inc.

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