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Novi News

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50¢

Look inside for your
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INSIDE

Ring in the holidays

How can you beat free food, an electric light show, tons of children's activities and Santa Claus? The answer is simple: you can't. All of that and more will be available and on display from 6-9 p.m. at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry's "Ringing in the Holiday" celebration next Thursday.

— 3A



It's better to give...

Our Holiday Gift Guide features toy and video game reviews, tips for staying stress free and gift ideas for everyone on your list. We call it the "ultimate shopping guide" designed to take the stress out of the holidays.

— Special Section

SPORTS

Well done, girls

Oh, to be Bill McCord and his Novi Wildcats swimming and diving team. The young squad came into this season with high hopes. Those hopes were fulfilled Friday and Saturday when the girls scored 14 points in the Division I state finals.

— 1B

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Wixom interchange OK'd

■ I-96 project planned in next two years

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Jennifer Granholm did an about-face this month and approved the new interchange at Wixom Road and I-96 late last Thursday.

The governor said the state will accelerate an additional \$618 million in spending for critical road and bridge projects across the state. This investment will fund 158

projects, known as the Greenlight projects, over the next two years as part of the Governor's Jobs Today initiative.

"Local communities will benefit from transportation system improvements, and our state will benefit from the significant economic impact of the more than 11,000 jobs supported by these projects," Granholm said.

County Commissioner pleased

Oakland County Commissioner Jeff Potter (R-South Lyon), who covers District 8 that includes Wixom, Walled Lake, north Novi, Lyon Township and South Lyon,

was thrilled with the decision.

He has been employed as an hourly worker at Ford Motor Co.'s Wixom Assembly Plant on Wixom Road since 1977.

"This is about Michigan jobs," Potter said.

"We've spent two years, with UAW Local 36 lobbying, going to MDOT hearings," Potter said. He noted that Dave Berry, president of Local 36, that serves Ford's Wixom Assembly plant, was vocal in his support of the interchange.

"We were informed in the early part of 2003 that the project had been pulled from the MDOT Five-Year Plan," Potter said.

"But, I was able to huddle with

"This has been a tremendous effort of cooperation between the state, county and local officials."

Mike Dorman
Wixom city manager

Wixom city officials and elected officials and also enlightened the UAW Local 36 about the public input process."

Potter said key people attended MDOT hearings in Troy and

Pontiac. He and Wixom City Manager Mike Dorman, for example, went to one hearing in Lansing. "The UAW got interested in con-

continued on page 2

Hungry with no place to go? Head to Moe's

■ Restaurateur has enough food for 3,000

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

For Moe Leon, serving a turkey dinner to 3,000 people this week is a piece of cake.

In past years, the local restaurateur has served 10,000-12,000 of his delicious free dinners on the day before Thanksgiving when he had 10 restaurants participating.

So, 3,000 people? No problem. "I feel like I'm taking a break," he said.

This year, the meal was served from 2 to 8 p.m.

This year, Leon served the holiday meal at only three restaurants—Moe's on Ten Family Dining on 10 Mile Road west of Haggerty Road, Leon's Family Dining on Wixom Road north of I-96 and his Dearborn location, Leon's Family Dining on Michigan Avenue just east of Telegraph.



Photo by PAM FLEMING
Moe Leon serves free Thanksgiving meals annually.

Leon said this year, his 15 providing the free meal, he's scaling back the operation a bit. But that doesn't mean there's not work to be done.

He won't accept paying customers during those hours—it's all free and anyone can come.

"All customers are invited," he said.

So, why does he do this?

"That's a great question," he said last week.

"I'm just very pleased that I'm able to do this to pay back the community, because the community has been very good to me in all the years I've been in business," Leon said.

"I feel fortunate I'm able to give back in this way. We love to see all the people who support us all year long—not just the seniors. This is our way of saying 'thank you' to everybody."

Preparations began as early as Nov. 17.

"We cook 200 turkeys," he said, plus hundreds of pounds of potatoes.

Restaurant staffers volunteered their time on the big day, and the city of Novi even provided the senior transportation van from 2 to 4 p.m.

Mayor David Landry, Police Chief David Molloy, and some city council members helped serve the meal.

The full dinner included chicken noodle soup, rolls, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, a vegetable, pumpkin pie and a beverage of choice.

"We appreciate the city's efforts in providing transportation for our seniors," Leon said.

Fortunately, Leon likes turkey. "All of our turkeys are fresh, not processed, and we even use the broth from the turkeys for the chicken noodle soup," he said.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Brighton resident Adam Szerlag, 4, chats with Santa at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall.

■ Promotions and sales grow for the holidays

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Josephine Jacobson gets in the shopping mood once she sees Christmas decorations.

Although the 36-year-old Novi resident said she doesn't enjoy fighting the holiday season shopping crowds, the colorful lights and decorations make it a little better.

"I try and get my shopping done early," Jacobson said. "I never start until after Thanksgiving, but I make sure to get it done early enough that I can still find a parking spot."

The holiday shopping kick-off

is Friday, and for most shoppers, the key to their business in particular stores lies solely on the sales and promotions.

Peggy Hayes, marketing and sponsorship director of Twelve Oaks Mall, said aside from individual store sales, the mall entices customers with contests, radio broadcasts and a daily visit from Santa Claus now through Christmas.

continued on page 2

One of Novi's true entrepreneur owns two businesses

■ Krupic has written "Felicia's Family Divorces"

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Novi resident Janice Krupic has really made a name for herself.

She went from serving in senior leadership roles in organizations, and has done executive leadership, coaching and what's called organizational development, to starting her own business, called PARAGON Leadership International.

But she didn't stop there. After successfully launching her own business, Krupic decided to turn

her attention to her other passion, which is writing children's books. She developed a second company, called "Children's Concept Publishing."

Both of her businesses are successes.

"I've made great decisions," Krupic said. "Without a doubt,

Owning a business is not for everybody, but we have been very successful and I do what I love to do, so it doesn't feel like work at all."

PARAGON Leadership International is an executive coaching and leadership development firm. It houses two offices, in Novi and in Portage. Krupic works with blue-chip client companies, both in the Detroit market,

and on the west side of the state.

"Most of our clients are at senior leadership positions, typically directors, up to and including the CEO levels," Krupic said. "We assist the leaders by enhancing their performance and impacting the bottom line."

Krupic's goal for PARAGON is to be able to service the great lakes region. She said that she's proud to be able to differentiate her company to the market place from other firms that do similar work.

"We are about quality and delivering," she said. "We're about results for the organization and for the individuals. Often

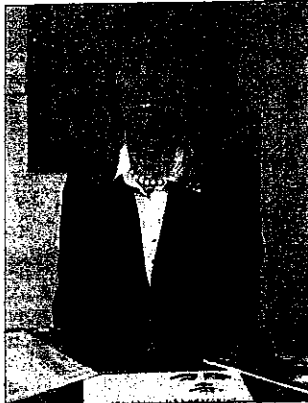


Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Janice Krupic, a Novi resident, owns two businesses and has written a children's book, "Felicia's Family Divorces."

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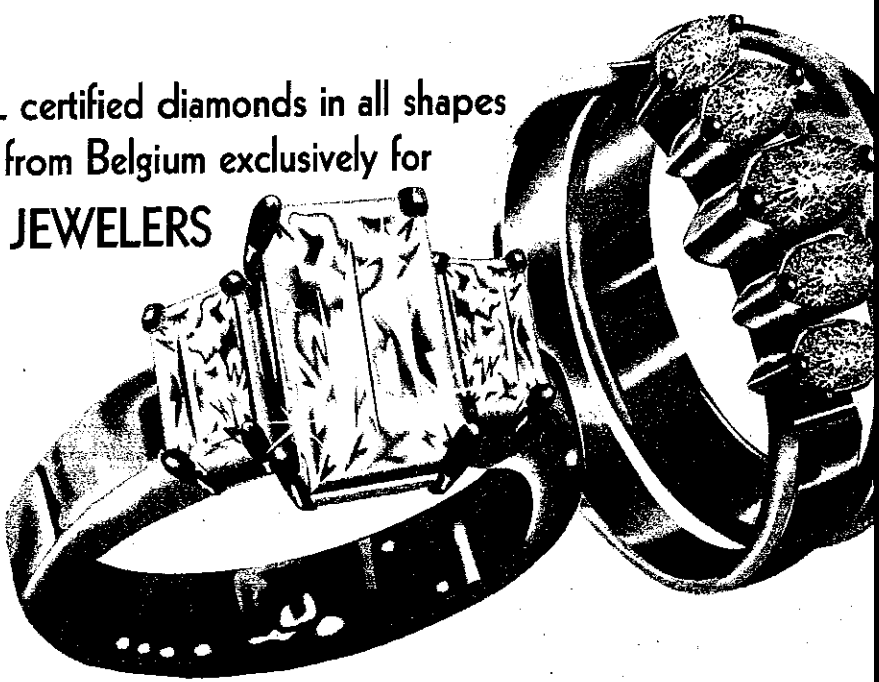
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LANSING CONNECTION

At this time of our Thanksgiving season, it helps to remember that we have so much good, so much bounty in our state—so much to be proud and thankful for. May you have a healthy, happy Thanksgiving.

Statewide Graduation Requirements

It may come as a surprise to many residents that the state of Michigan only requires one academic class for high school graduation—civics. Recently State Superintendent Mike Flanagan suggested more statewide academic requirements.

As vice chair of the Senate Education Committee and a former educator, I have a keen interest in examining proposals to establish state-wide standards and enhance the value of high school diplomas. I very much look forward to reviewing this proposal.

Wixom Road Update

Recently Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced her reconsideration to proceed with the reconstruction of the outlaid Wixom Road/96 interchange. Granholm vetoed the project twice, most recently in October.

I applaud the governor's change of heart and look forward to working with her on getting this vital road project back on track. I will work closely with Senator Shirley Johnson and the Senate Appropriations Committee to quickly put together a supplemental budget and make this a reality.

As you know, I have long championed the reconstruction, having first introduced legislation in support of it in 1997, when I sponsored an amendment as a State Representative to the Michigan Department of

Transportation budget authorizing it to begin studies on improving both the Beck Road and Wixom Road interchanges. When the Beck Road interchange opened last month, I joined local officials and area residents in calling for the project to be restored.



Nancy Cassis

Amber Alert Abuse Bill

I am pleased to announce that my Amber Alert abuse bill has been signed into law. Senate Bill 134 (now Public Act 207) and its companion, SB 74 (PA 205 sponsored by state Sen. Mike Gochis), make it a felony to falsely report an Amber Alert and establish a penalty of up to four years in prison and fines up to \$2,000.

Amber Alert is an invaluable resource for finding abducted children. This new law ensures that those who abuse it will face strong punishment.

As always, your comments are welcome and appreciated. You may reach me by e-mail at: ncassis@senate.michigan.gov, or toll free at 1-888-38-NANCY.

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 Westvine Lake, and the cities of Novi, Northville (the portion in Oakland County), Orchard Lake, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom.

Library building fund increases

■ Pending requests total \$405,000

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Travis Carley is a man on a mission. His mission is to obtain some six-figure donations to help the Novi Public Library expand its building.

After presenting the library a \$1 million gift in 2004, Myrtle and the now late Charles Walker of Novi agreed to match additional donations up to \$1 million through Dec. 31, 2005.

Carley, a fund-raising professional from Community Counseling Services in Southfield, gave an update on the capital campaign at last Wednesday's library board meeting.

The campaign has raised more than \$1,183,000 in cash, pledges and matching funds toward fund-raiser's goal of raising \$2 million in private funds before the end of November 2006, according to Carley.

"We have a lot of activity coming up and look forward to a great deal more of activity in the coming month," he said.

Carley congratulated the library staff, board, fund-raising committee and library staff.

"All parties are working very hard on the campaign on a daily basis, and I appreciate the effort," he said. "Much has been accomplished so far toward a successful campaign."

Carley said the following have

also been completed:

- providing orientation on gift solicitation methodology to campaign leaders,
- determining gift tracking policies and procedures,
- determining a public relations and communications plan and
- the receipt of more than \$70,000 in cash and pledges over the last month and a half.

"There's been a lot of activity and a great deal accomplished through the efforts of many," Carley said.

Action steps and focus points in the coming months include:

- continued preparation for lead gift solicitations,
- ongoing development of the prospect list,
- planning for cultivation gatherings,
- solicitation and receipt of many gifts before the end of the year and
- the implementation of the public relations and communications plan.

"These areas of focus are crucial to the solicitation of gifts to the campaign at all levels with a particular focus on lead gifts, the completion of board solicitations and leadership recruitment," Carley said.

The next fund-raising committee meeting for the Novi Public Library will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at the library.

President Rick Smith was not present at the meeting.

The board is also down a member since Terry Margolis was recently elected to city council.

Normally, the board has seven members plus two student ex-officio members at a meeting. Only six people attended the Nov. 16 meeting, including one of the student ex-officio members. Only four are needed for a quorum.

Two fund-raisers set this week

The first in the 2005/2006 Novi Town Hall Series benefiting the Novi Public Library will be Wednesday at the Rock Financial Showplace.

The luncheon and talk will feature mystery writer Noreen Wald from Washington, D.C.

Tickets cost \$35 without lunch, \$50 for one lecture and lunch or \$120 for all three lectures and lunch.

The luncheon begins promptly at 11:30 a.m., followed by the lecture and book signing at 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 11 a.m. Those who wish to attend Wednesday's lecture only can purchase a ticket at the door.

For more information, call Kathy Crawford at (248) 349-5079 or Diana Canup at (248) 348-1822 or visit www.novilib.mil.us.

Imagine Theater at Fountain Walk will have a special showing of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with proceeds going to the Novi Public Library Capital Campaign.

Individual tickets are \$6, with a family pack of four tickets costing \$20. Tickets are available for purchase only at the Novi Public Library.

Those who would like to make a donation to the campaign can contact Travis Carley at (248) 349-0720, Ext. 140.

What's been raised so far

The Novi Public Library capital campaign, "Moving Forward is Growing With Our Community: A Campaign for Novi Public Library," has accumulated the following funds for a building expansion:

- \$1 million — from Charles and Myrtle Walker
- \$91,500 — in cash, pledges
- \$91,500 — in matching funds
- Total: \$1,183,000

Other library news

Mary Ellen Mulcrone, assistant library director, added that the library has received positive comments about the new foreign language collection plus requests for additional languages and materials.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

Two students take their place on Novi's beautification commission

■ Pair hope to impact community

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's been two months since they interviewed for the positions, but the wall was well worth it. Novi High School students Dayna (requested that last name not be used) and Denise Rowe finally attended their first beautification commission meeting

Monday morning, and both can't wait to get their hands dirty — literally.

"We want a fresh, young approach on the beautification in the city," said Leslie Weirmer, beautification commission member. "We haven't determined the responsibilities of the kids yet. We just had them introduced at the meeting."

Back in September, Novi's City Council conducted close to 60 student interviews for various city boards and commissions. Twenty students were eliminated after that process, but many were selected to be a part of Novi's new

youth council.

Dayna and Denise were happy to make the cut.

"I want to be a part of the community, and I thought this would be a good way to do that," said Dayna, a sophomore. "I've never heard of a city or community letting students be a part of something like this, so I thought it was a really interesting opportunity. I just hope to help make good decisions."

During the interviews city council members were looking for students who exhibited responsibility, good teamwork and good decision-making.

"I love this city, and I want people to want to come and stay here."

Denise Rowe
Novi High School senior

Dayna was a little nervous at first.

"I didn't know the interview was going to be broadcast on television, and it was in front of everyone," she said. "I had to do a speech, but it worked out well."

Denise is a senior this year. She's been involved in many extra-curricular activities in the past, but nothing quite like this. "I hope to make a difference, and I hope some of my ideas will be used in helping to improve the

image of Novi," she said. "I love this city, and I want people to want to come and stay here. I was thinking the beautification would be a good committee to be on."

Denise said she felt prepared for the interview process and enjoyed it.

"I did my speech in front of the city council and former Mayor Lou Csordas," she said. "It was exciting, and it was a good experience."

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@gannett.com.

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FRIGAT LS 11:25

ELIZABETHTOWN (PG-13)
11:40, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

PROOF (PG-13)
1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20

FRIGAT LS 11:25

NORTH COUNTRY (R)
11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

FLIGHTPLAN (PG-13)
12:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:10

FRIGAT LS 11:25

GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:05

FRIGAT LS 11:25

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Local unsung heroes honored

Two from Wixom, one from Novi win dinner in Troy

By Ramez Khuri STAFF WRITER

It takes a special person to be an unsung hero.

It doesn't matter what one's age or gender is — if one does something worth recognizing, someone will take notice.

That fact couldn't be more evident than right here in our own back yards, as Linda LeVon-Stieler and John Ellsworth, both of Wixom, and Adam Thomas Svenson, of Novi, have all received the 94.7 WCSX Unsung Hero Salute for their various contributions to the community. They were three of 23 winners.

"This is the second year we've done this," said Jennifer Williams, marketing director for WCSX radio. "We noticed that there are a lot of unsung heroes on the world, especially in the Detroit Metro area. We are very fortunate to have a way to let our listeners tell us who these people are."

The radio station put the word out, looking for anyone who has made a difference in someone else's life. Listeners were able to nominate whoever they thought should be honored.

For the contest, on-air DJs go through all the e-mails and pick between 20 and 25 people they think are most worthy of the award.

"Unfortunately, we would love to be able to honor everybody, but this year it was 23 people," Williams said. "We read their names on the air, post them on our Web site, and we invite them to a banquet with guests. They're at a table of eight with all of our on-air DJs, they'll get a plaque that night, and it's a chance for us to thank each one for going above and beyond the call of duty and for being one of those people that makes the world a better place."

Son's death prompts action

Ellsworth is a sergeant with the Lake Police Department. His son, Justin, was killed in the line of duty in Iraq in November 2004. Since then, he has worked on the behalf of soldiers who are risking their lives in the name of freedom. He's currently involved with a group called "Families United for Our Troops and Their Mission."

"One day at work I was on patrol in one of the neighborhoods. I had stopped to talk to one of our residents who was raking his leaves, and he said congratulations," Ellsworth said. "I said, 'For what?' and he said, 'For your Unsung Hero nomination.'"

"I thought he was kidding at first, and I came back to my office and I looked it up, and there I was."

Ellsworth is thankful and surprised about his nomination, but he said the most important message he would like people to get out of the streets of Detroit, he said.

For more information on the group, visit www.unitedfortroops.com. For information on Ellsworth's son, visit www.tankmastergunner.com/jfm/jfm.htm.

Adam to the rescue

Ten-year-old Adam Thomas Svenson, of Novi, came through when his aunt, Barb English, of St. Clair Shores, needed him the most.

She was baby-sitting Svenson and his two younger sisters during the summer when the four of them decided to take a bike ride.

"We were turning a sharp corner, and she fell off," Svenson said. "My sisters and I kept riding because we were in front of her and we didn't know. She cried help and we rode back.

"I went back to my house because it was the first corner and got the phone and called 911."

English, who has diabetes, ended up breaking her hip, and was in extreme pain.

"He stayed calm and managed the whole thing," said Laurie Svenson, Adam's mother. "My kids didn't stay with her the whole time until the ambulance came because she was in so much pain that the neighbor didn't want them seeing her when they put her in the ambulance."

When the ambulance came, a neighbor sent the kids home.

"It makes me proud that he knew what to do," Laurie Svenson added. "We've always talked about 911 with our kids. They've never been in a situation like that where they've had to call 911 before, but they know what to do in case something happens."

Ellsworth recently celebrated her needless first big-girl haircut.

Currently pregnant with her first child, McQuaid said her 5-month-old pup, Jasmine, will always be her firstborn.

"She's part of our family," McQuaid said. "and a very important part of our lives."

Like Jasmine, many pets have become more than good friends, and some have their own chair at the dinner table.

"I don't have kids," said Amber Koeller, owner of Gone to the Dogs in Novi. "I have three German Shepherds and eight cats."

Koeller said her pets are like

Cancer victim helps others

LeVon-Stieler was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer in October 2002. She's been going to the Huron Valley Sinai Hospital for chemotherapy at least once a week every Monday for three years. In fact, in date, she has had over 150 rounds of treatment.

Instead of being constantly upset about her illness, she has taken it upon herself to help those who are in the same boat.

"I have a really good attitude, and I'm there helping other people and new patients who come in that are diagnosed with any type of cancer," LeVon-Stieler said. "I firmly believe that anybody diagnosed with cancer should not go through it alone. I help them through their journeys, dealing and living with cancer, which I have learned to cope and deal and learn to live with myself."

LeVon-Stieler was humbled to find out she had won the award.

"I'm still overwhelmed by this," she said. "I'm happy about it. It really hasn't hit me yet."

LeVon-Stieler has a Web site, www.caringbridge.org/milinda, that she updates that displays how she's doing and what her activities are.

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@gannett.com.



Photo by TRACY MISHLER
Mary Ann Grutza couldn't think of a better friend than her 10-year-old dog, Gracie.

Everyone's best friend

No longer a pet, but a child

By Tracy Mishler STAFF WRITER

people, and her day care for dogs is exactly like a day care for kids.

"We've got different toys and litter boxes instead of toilets," she said. "From nap time to snack time, everything is the same."

"Pets have become very important, and day care is better than leaving them locked in a cage all day. Would you do that to your kids?"

"When you go on vacation, so can your pets," she said. "No more boarding houses or kennels, because pets can actually go to resorts with artificial trees and water fountains."

"Cats and dogs have become inside pets with special beds and chairs. My pets are my children, and I'll do whatever I can for them."

And at \$25 a day, pets can be just as expensive as human children.

"Some dogs come here five days a week," Koeller said. "Day care really benefits the dogs because now they're more part of the family than ever."

Robertson said she sees animals with many different problems, including coughing, vomiting and hang nails.

Both Koeller and Robertson agreed there are a lot more pets for pets these days.

Day care offers a place for the dogs to play while their

parents are off at work.

"And at \$25 a day, pets can be just as expensive as human children."

"We had a stager come out and do a consultation," said the 60-year-old former Novi resident. "She gave us an eight-page report on things we should do differently in order to sell."

Allington said before staging, she was given an estimated 60-90 days from real estate agents before their home would sell.

"We ended up doing all the work and our home sold in less than a week," she said. "I think we had a nice home regardless, but the staging really added to the punch."

Both Koeller and Robertson agreed there are a lot more pets for pets these days.

Day care offers a place for the dogs to play while their

Tracy Mishler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com.

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BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, Staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, pfleming@gannett.com

Set the stage

New trend makes for a quicker sale

By Tracy Mishler RECORD STAFF WRITER

Home staging is becoming a growing trend for people looking to quickly sell their homes.

Cynthia Smith, of Novi, said today's weak economy is a buyer's market.

"Sellers need to go that extra mile," Smith said. "Staging can create that extra value needed for the home seller."

Smith's Novi-based interior redesign company, Feather Your Nest, helps residents in several communities, including Royal Oak, Rochester, Milford, Northville and Novi, with home makeovers and staging.

"We try and help customers increase the curb appeal," she said, "and set the stage for expecting the sale of their home."

Linda Allington and her husband, George, staged their home themselves.

"We had a stager come out and do a consultation," said the 60-year-old former Novi resident. "She gave us an eight-page report on things we should do differently in order to sell."

Allington said before staging, she was given an estimated 60-90 days from real estate agents before their home would sell.

"We ended up doing all the work and our home sold in less than a week," she said. "I think we had a nice home regardless, but the staging really added to the punch."

Both Koeller and Robertson agreed there are a lot more pets for pets these days.

Day care offers a place for the dogs to play while their

Shelly Wagener, accredited staging professional from California-based Staged Homes and Set the Stage, said staging helps buyers visualize themselves in that particular home.

"Buyers need to mentally be able to see in that home," Wagener said. "We tell our customers they need to detail their homes just as they would detail their car."

"Staging is like merchandising. You have a product now."

Keeping it cost effective
Deborah Chene said staging can be expensive, but her Farmington Hills-based Staging Impressions company tries to make each stage as cost-effective

Tips for staging your home

- Clean everything, including the refrigerator, oven, washer and dryer, windows and grout.
 - Keep lawn in good condition.
 - Keep home clutter-free.
 - Depersonalize your home by putting away all pictures, clothes, collectibles and other items giving the room a personality.
 - Get started packing early. Cleaning out your cabinets will actually make them look bigger.
 - Paint using neutral colors and deodorize any unusual smells.
 - Keep things simple and create open space.
 - Seek a third party's opinion before selling. Having an objective perspective is key.
- Source: Debra Chene, Staging Impressions



Home-stager Cindy Smith arranges the Novi home of Lothan Groesch, prepping it for sale.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

look good, so I called a stager to help."

Weyandt said it cost about \$1,600 for his home to be staged.

Chene said staging is not a makeover and it's not decorating. It's neutralizing and making the home ready for someone else," she said. "Sellers need to remember that hiring someone come in or doing it themselves."

Tom Weyandt heard that depersonalizing his home could help it sell faster.

"Most of the television shows making over homes use decorating tools," she said. "When staging a home, you don't want to decorate. Your home should be as neutral as possible."

Tracy Mishler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com.

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EDUCATION

Ramez Khuri, school reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@gannett.com

State proposes more rigorous high school schedule for graduation

Requirements could start as early as next school year

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The proposal was just made last week, so it's still brand new to Novi High School's principal, but on the surface, a more rigorous schedule for John Lawrence's students doesn't seem like a drastic change from what's already going on at Novi High.

The State Board of Education will begin reviewing a set of brand new high school graduation requirements proposed last week by State Superintendent Mike Flanagan.

Four years of math and English language arts and three years of science are among the recommendations. Currently, only one semester of civics is required for high school graduation under state law.

"We haven't analyzed this plan and its impact on what it's going to mean for our curriculum yet," Lawrence said. "Over the next few weeks, we'll certainly have a much better handle on that."

Flanagan said that what he called the Michigan Merit Curriculum would begin with the freshman class next year if any necessary legislation is passed and enacted by March 1, 2006. If legislation is not enacted by that time, the requirements would begin with the following freshman class.

Flanagan presented to the State Board six recommendations that find out his plan for high school graduation requirements in Michigan.

The recommendations include a curriculum that combines a core list of rigorous academic classes, along with a list of 21st Century skill sets that will be integrated and taught in all elective courses.

Novi High School currently requires 15 core credits.

"I can tell you without looking at the data, that many students in

this high school already take four credits of math, from the time they begin as freshmen to the time that they end," Lawrence said. "On the surface, for our ninth graders, things aren't going to change that much because requirements that they're calling for and what we're already requiring are very similar."

The State Board will consider the Superintendent's recommendations and come back at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13, to develop and act on its ideas on how best to improve high school outcomes.

If the State Board's final actions in December require any change in state law, its plan will be forwarded to Gov. Jennifer Granholm and the Michigan Legislature for their consideration.

The Michigan Merit Core of academic courses in Flanagan's plan include:

- four years of English language arts
- one year each of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and an additional math class in the senior year

- one year each of Biology, Physics or Chemistry; and one additional year of science;
- three years of social science, which must include a semester of civics and a semester of economics;
- one year of health or physical education; and
- one year of fine arts, which may include music, art, or theater courses.

This required curriculum only would fill 16 of the traditional 24 credit hours in a high school career, leaving the remainder of the course time for electives, or career and technical education programs.

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@gannett.com.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Novi Middle School honor roll correction

These students should have appeared on the Novi Middle School Making Period 1 Honor Roll in last week's edition:

- Joseph Mikkelsen
- Alyssa Miller
- Christopher Milan
- Angelica Minissale
- John Mitchell

through the advanced/accelerated learners.

For more information, call the ITC at (248) 449-1260.

School board meeting time and location change

The Novi Community School Board of Education meeting next Thursday has been changed from 5:30 p.m. at Novi High School to 7:30 p.m. at the Educational Services Building, located at 25345 Taft Road. Call (248) 449-1200 for more information.

Meeting for parents

"Meeting the instructional needs of all students through differentiated instruction," presented by Nancy Weber, M.A., will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at the Instructional Technology Center located at 25345 Taft Road.

Parents will discover what the teachers in Novi are learning to help them meet their students' academic needs across the learning continuum, from the students who struggle, all the way

Seeking hosts

The EF Foundation is seeking families to host foreign exchange students for one semester starting in January. Share your American home, family, high school, and community with a representative from another culture. Call Linda Leely at (248) 349-5599 with any questions.

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Let's twist again.....
Deerfield students enjoyed themselves last week during an assembly called Dare to Dance. Christy Lane Entertainment hosted the assembly, which shared a message of getting excited about life through popular recreational dances. Pictured here are students Nicholas Alonzi and Jack Reilly.



Party time at Orchard Hills!
Students at Orchard Hills Elementary School had a blast when the Variety Dance Program came visiting on Nov. 15. The children were taught dances from the 1950s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and today. They danced swing, hand jive, line dances and more. Now they're all ready for holiday parties.



Birds of Prey land at Novi Meadows

The Michigan United Conservation Club visited fifth grade students at Novi Meadows on Nov. 9. Five Michigan birds of prey were presented to the children by Jesse Gabbard, of MUCC. The students learned about the habitat required to support birds of prey and their hunting abilities. Shown with Gabbard are students Matthew Confer, Carl Faraon, Travis Pattan, Nick Valshampayan, Caitlyn Sultana, Kelsey Dietrich, Shelby Clouthier and Hannah Fan.

Students raise \$2,434 for UNICEF

Zerio top collector for the second straight year

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Junior Kimberly Zerio made it back-to-back years as the top collector for UNICEF's Trick-or-Treat for Kids campaign at Novi High School by bringing in \$131 this year.

On Halloween night 132 Community Volunteer Service high school students hit the

streets of their neighborhoods and trick-or-treated for money instead of candy.

All the funds they collected went to UNICEF, an organization that was founded in 1946 to provide medicine, clean water and sanitation, improved nutrition, basic education and emergency assistance to children around the world. This year 50 percent of all proceeds will provide relief to Hurricane Katrina victims.

"This is very nice," Blanchard said. "UNICEF says they can do a lot with a little bit of money, and when you're able to donate over \$100, it does a lot. It's a good feeling."

Heinowski agreed. "It seemed like a fun experi-

ence," she said. "It was a good way to volunteer and help other people."

Zerio explained that when she went door-to-door, she asked people if they would like to donate to UNICEF, but many didn't know what it was about.

"It's for a pretty good cause," she said. "I had to explain to them what it was about. This makes me feel pretty good about myself because it's not something selfish to do. I'm helping people that I don't even know."

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@gannett.com.

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ON CAMPUS

Novi resident Kelsey Collins has been accepted into the Albion College Carl A. Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Institute for Professional Management.

Students are chosen annually for the Gerstaecker Institute and must complete degree requirements in economics and management, along with courses in ethics, writing, speaking and management, and fulfill at least two internships in a wide range of business settings.

Kelsey Collins is the daughter of Kevin and Brenda Collins of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Elizabeth Clark and Benjamin Landry, of Novi, have

been accepted this fall into the Albion College Gerald R. Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service.

The Ford Institute is designed to give exceptional students a chance to broaden their education through concentrated study in areas of government and public service. Institute members come from all academic majors and complete course work concerning political science, history and ethics.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Michael and Terri Clark and a 2005 graduate of Novi High School. Ben is the son of David and Julie Landry and also a 2005 graduate of Novi High School.

CITY OF NOVI SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a special meeting on MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2005 AT 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, for the purpose of interviewing candidates for appointments to City Boards and Commissions.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
NOVI CITY CLERK
(11-24-05 NN 254168)

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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 7:30 PM, in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18-200 TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NOVI TO MODIFY SECTION 2515 TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LAND-BANKING OF PARKING SPACES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 PM, Wednesday, December 14, 2005.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY
(11-24-05 NN 255044)

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 7:30 PM, in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18-202 TO AMEND THE SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NOVI TO COMPLY WITH RECENT STATE MANDATED CHANGES AND CLARIFY INCONSISTENCIES THROUGHOUT THE ORDINANCE.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 4:00 PM, Wednesday, December 14, 2005.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY
(11-24-05 NN 255046)

CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Board of Review, Election Commission, Housing & Community Development Advisory Committee, Historical Commission, Public Access Promotion Committee, Woodlands Review Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

If you are a qualified voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City Board or Commission, applications and booklets containing information about the various Boards and Commissions are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. Also, you may contact the City Clerk's office by calling (248) 349-2450 to receive an application by mail or fax, or log on to the City Web Site at www.ci.novimi.us to print out an application.

The deadline for filing an application is Wednesday, December 7, 2005, at 4:00 pm to allow time for scheduling interview appointments.

Council will be interviewing applicants on Monday, December 12, 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.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK
(11-24-05 NN 254168)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE 5 MILE ROAD AND SHELDON ROAD SITE

The Charter Township of Northville is seeking qualified developers to submit proposals for the purchase or exchange and development of an approximately 15 acre site located at the northeast corner of 5 Mile Road and Sheldon Road. The property is owned by the township and is currently vacant. The Township is interested in a conceptual site plan that meets the following project objectives:

- Create a development that offers high quality and enduring buildings that can serve as a landmark for the community
- Offer desired uses at this high-profile intersection that are compatible with adjoining residential neighborhoods
- Achieve a development that will contribute to the economic vitality of the entire Township
- Integrate superior site design principles
- Provide a significant benefit to the Township

Copies of the RFP can be obtained at the Northville Township Manager's office, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. Twenty (20) bound copies of the proposal must be submitted to the Northville Township Clerk's office, 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168 on or before 4:00 p.m. January 27, 2006.

If you have any questions, please contact Township Manager Chip Snider at (248) 348-5800, ext. 10493.

SUE A. HILLEBRAND, C.M.C.
CLERK
(11-24-05 NN 254210)

Read then Recycle this Newspaper

OPINION

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.

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Novi News

Cal Stone EDITOR

Grace Ferris Perry GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Perleberg EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Richard Ramhoff PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

WHERE WE STAND

A season for thanks: An attitude of gratitude

It's often hard to grab hold of as cold winds of job loss, illness and relationship conflicts blow into our lives. White-collar Novi has felt the harsh chill of recent automotive staffing cuts. But even when all things are going our way, do we pause? Whether you work tomorrow or have the day off, dine with family and friends or alone, rise the approaching holiday season or embrace it, set aside some time to reflect on your blessings.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

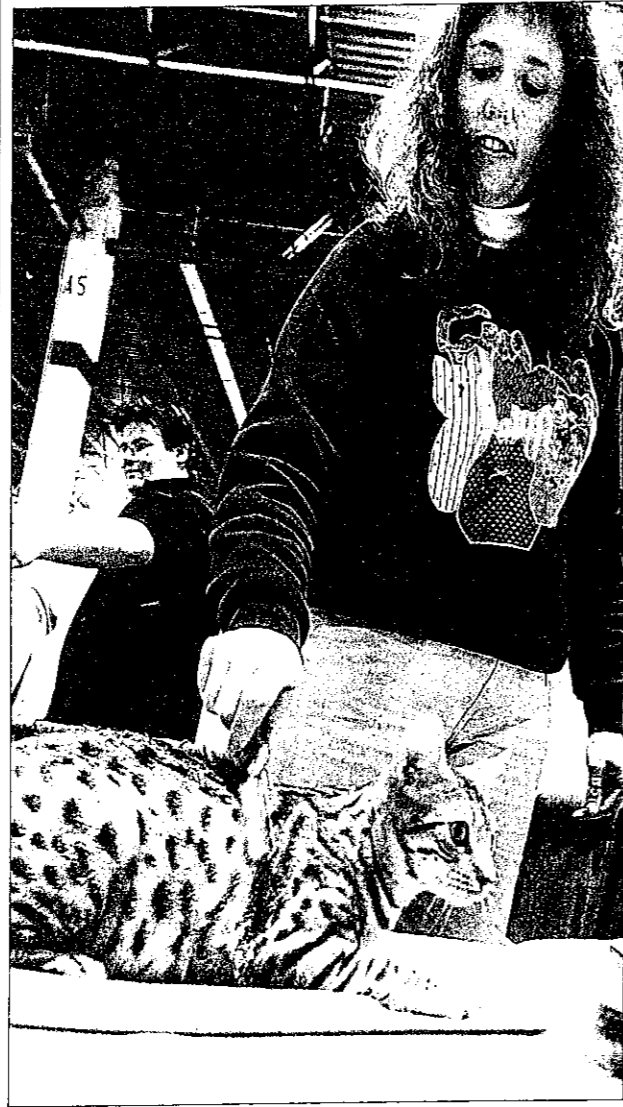


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Voodoo Sandy Wagner grooms an Oicat named "Voodoo" during last weekend's Family Pet Expo at the Rock Financial Showplace. Visitors could learn about all kinds of pets from birds to fish to cats and dogs, purchase goodies for their pets and even adopt those that needed a home.

LETTERS

A mess of politics

As a philosophical libertarian, I not only disagree with Democrats and Republicans most of the time, but I find their powers of reasoning, or lack thereof, impossible to understand. For example, what is it that I don't understand about the congressional vote last Friday to withdraw our troops from Iraq. After months of claiming that Bush lied and soldiers died so it is now time to bring our boys home from Iraq, Democrats finally had the opportunity to put their votes where their mouths have been. Instead, the majority apparently decided to let the soldiers stay, as Congress voted 403 to 3 to keep them in Iraq. Go figure.

Dr. Richard Reisinger Novi

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. E-mail: cstone@gannett.com. Fax: (248) 349-9832

Correction:

In an article on this weekend's Festival of Trees event at Rock Financial Showplace on page 5 of the Nov. 17 issue, the wrong date was given for the first Lunch with Santa. The correct date is Sunday, Nov. 27. Also, the Festival of Trees is one of the largest fund-raisers for Children's Hospital of Michigan, not the largest.

Singing hymns, looking back and giving thanks

Thanksgiving is here — and time to celebrate our traditions, each in our own way. My wife, Kathy, and I deeply enjoy attending service at our church on Thanksgiving morning. We'll join a small congregation at an old downtown Episcopal Church, quietly united in giving thanks for our abundant blessings. We'll sing some of the old hymns, so deeply rooted in our memories as to have become part of our emotional DNA.

Michigan village of Petersburg — (now best known for the enormous Cabela's store in the nearby town of Dundee) — by the time my memories of him began, he had been a teacher all his life, ending his career heading the vocational education program at Detroit's Southwestern High School. He was a deeply devout Methodist, convinced that the history of our times consisted in the direct revelation of God's will. He and my grandmother survived their retirement on whatever small pension he had earned as a teacher; the family had lost all their savings when the Guardian Bank went bust during the Depression.

agricultural metaphor of the season. The harvest of the summer is in; the jams and jellies from our peaches, raspberries and apples sit in shining jars in our pantry. Our fall work has tied up our land and garden for the coming winter. And the harvest of our friends and family — joyously, thankfully — will be with us at our Thanksgiving table for dinner together.

Proposed interchange gives us one thing to be thankful for

With all of the natural disasters, increasing unemployment and high gas prices this year, it doesn't seem like there's much to be thankful for. Thanksgiving season. The voices of gloom and doom became even louder this week, with Ford Motor Co. announcing the impending layoff of 4,000 salaried employees and General Motors Corp. announcing in a televised address Monday morning the closing of six plants in Michigan and three elsewhere.

attempts to take a "shortcut" by using 10 Mile Road west through South Lyon or Eight Mile Road west to Pontiac Trail through the same community proved to be even more time consuming. The new Beck Road interchange, which opened Oct. 24 with much fanfare, has made getting on the highway from communities south of 196 so much easier. It most likely helps motorists coming from cities north of the highway as well.

Assembly plant, the largest plant in North America, has already been reduced from a bustling, two-shift, 20-hour operation providing incomes to more than 3,000 Metro Detroit families to a sparse one-shift operation on eight hours. Hopefully, with the Wixom Road/96 interchange back on track, the Wixom Assembly Plant will remain open, providing needed jobs to the entire area.



Pam Fleming

Anyone who has used the new Beck Road/96 interchange can attest to the huge improvement this is over the former setup. Before this interchange was razed, the trek to 196 from Novi posed the question, "Which way is the fastest?" Try Novi Road with its multitude of stoplights and high traffic volume at rush hour; attempt to navigate the former jig-jag at Beck Road where it converged with 196 and 12 Mile Road; or sit through five or six lights trying to turn left off of northbound Wixom Road onto 196?

SENIORS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com



Photo by TRACY MISHLER

Teodora Muntenanu visits Mary White and her husband, Malcom, to assist them in their home at Fox Run. As a home health aide, Muntenanu helps White walk and perform other tasks she can no longer do on her own.

GIVING CARE

Dedicating a month to day-after-day care

By Tracy Mishler STAFF WRITER

Lois Goga has visited her husband, George, every day since he suffered from a massive stroke in July. Now, spending his days at the Manor of Novi, Goga, 72, of Northville, helps her 81-year-old husband with his rehabilitation exercises to make him stronger.

Helping hands

"Caregivers can be anyone from family members or friends or someone you've hired to give care," said Linda Premo, manager and clinical supervisor of home support at Fox Run Senior Community. "It's really important that we recognize and value family caregivers. For some, it's day after day and they can really get lost in the emotional aspects."

"There is a strong attempt being made at branding it," said Shaffer, public relations manager. Fox Run's home health support services are provided under the auspices of Erickson HealthSM, the nation's largest health and wellness system for people over 62 years of age.

"Dedicating a month to these heroes is a wonderful idea and we should focus more on the people who are caring for people day after day. We really need to offer these unsung heroes more assistance."

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Table with 3 columns: Day/Time, Activity, and Details. Includes events for Friday 11/25, Monday 11/28, Tuesday 11/29, Wednesday 11/30, and Thursday 12/1.

Make This Thanksgiving a Memorable One! Join with others from our community at a Service of Thanksgiving Thursday, November 24, 10:00 a.m. This delightful service, designed to appeal to the entire family, features the Ward Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Teen Choir and Children's Choir. Childcare provided through age 4.

Now Offering Early Morning, Evening & Saturday Appointments Jeffrey Jaghab, D.D.S. Stephanie Jaghab, D.D.S. General - Cosmetic Dentistry Serving the Northville Community since 1949 Voted Best Dental Office in Northville MEMBERS: American Dental Association • Michigan Dental Association • Detroit District Dental Association • Past Presidents of Detroit Dental Clinic Club • Pierre Fauchard Academy • Chicago Dental Society 416 South Main St. Northville 248-349-2750 www.jaghab.com

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SPOTLIGHT ON ALLERGY & ASTHMA Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I. CONTROLLING YOUR CHILD'S ASTHMA If your child is one of the 9 million in the United States who suffers from asthma, it's important to become educated about the condition. A recent study published in the Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology showed that more than 50% of parents take ineffective action to help their child's asthma. So, what should you do as a parent? First, ask your child's allergist how to make sure your home is more comfortable for your child. With the doctor, create a daily asthma management plan that outlines medications and measures for controlling asthma. Ask for a peak flow meter to help you measure lung function at home and ask for a demonstration on the proper use of an inhaler. For more than two decades, Dr. Rowe, a board certified allergist and certified research investigator, has directed dozens of medical studies to develop new treatment and medications for allergy and asthma patients. At the ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN, we are looking for volunteers to participate in these studies. If you qualify, you could be part of breakthrough research that will give doctors a new method for the treatment of allergic and asthma. For further information, call (248) 473-6400. Our new office is located at 2422 Meadowbrook Road, STE 200, Novi, New patients are welcome. "The Caring Allergist Who Gets Results." 85% of you have seasonal or year-round nasal allergy symptoms, ask us about our unique clinical services. www.allergyinfo.org

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Submitted photo

Turkey Trot Fox Run residents and staff had several walking options to choose from during the community's annual Turkey Trot, including a one-mile outdoor walk around the campus. 4th grade students from neighboring Franklin Road Christian School later joined residents for Thanksgiving crafts, cider and doughnuts.

CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com

EVENTS

Novi Theaters Productions
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road...

and performing ensembles for ages 4-18. Acting Program: Traditional scene study and text analysis training...

Treats and Treasures
DATE: Saturday, Dec. 3
TIME: 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Novi School Board Meeting
DATE: Thursday, Dec. 1
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

42400 Arena Drive
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program...

Fountain Walk
DETAILS: Imagine Theatre at Fountain Walk is holding a special screening of the new film, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"...

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Events
LACC Manufacturer's Roundtable
TIME/DATE: 5:30-8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 30

High School Happening
DATE: Tuesday, Nov. 29
TIME: 3 p.m.

Novi Town Hall Lecture
DATE: Wednesday, Nov. 30
TIME: Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Borders Bookstore and Music, Novi
LOCATION: 43075 Cleve Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0780

Novi Chorale Christmas Concerts
First United Methodist Church of Farmington
DATE: Friday, Dec. 2

Holiday Shoppe
DATE: Sunday, Dec. 4
TIME: noon-4 p.m.

Holiday Band Concert
DATE: Sunday, Dec. 18
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day Closing
DATE: Thursday, Nov. 24
DETAILS: The library will be closed on Thanksgiving Day...

Novi Public Library Hours
LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Second City Detroit, Novi Happenings
LOCATION: 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 348-4448

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 6 and Jan. 3
TIME: 7 p.m.

Holiday Band Concert
DATE: Sunday, Dec. 18
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

Novi Public Library Hours
LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten Mile Road
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Help Match the Walker Million-Online
DETAILS: You now can make a donation online to help the library match the \$1 million Walker challenge grant...

Battle of the Books Registration
DATE: Begins, Thursday, Dec. 1
DETAILS: The Battle of the Books is a program designed to encourage reading and to recognize young people who like to read...

Maybury Park Programs
LOCATION: Maybury State Park, Eight Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8390

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Monday, Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and 19
TIME: 7 p.m.

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Monday, Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and 19
TIME: 7 p.m.

Wixom City Council
DATE: Tuesday, Dec. 13 and 20
TIME: 7:30 p.m.

Line Dancing
DATE: every Monday and Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Benefit for NPL Capital Campaign Fund
DATE: Saturday, Nov. 26
TIME: 10 a.m.

MASSIVE 2-STORE GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE
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SALE HOURS: FRI-10A, SAT-10A, SUN-12-4

continued from page 16
(grade.) Students read from a list of five books and then participate in a question where each team answers questions about these books...

Volunteer celebrates 16 years with festival

Event's now a family affair



Photo by PAW FLEMING

Michelle Mamo will celebrate her 16th anniversary this year. The Northville resident won't be observing her 16th wedding anniversary, however, but rather as a "penitential" volunteer for Children's Hospital of Michigan's Festival of Trees...

Experiences have been varied
Mamo has done a lot of different jobs as a volunteer with the festival and has had her own decorated trees displayed...

Why serve as a volunteer?
Mamo said serving as a volunteer at the Festival of Trees is like creating a whole other family.

Friendship Circle
DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 1 p.m.

MOMS Club of Novi
DATE: First Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples
DATES: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.

Women's Prayer Support
DATE: Saturday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.

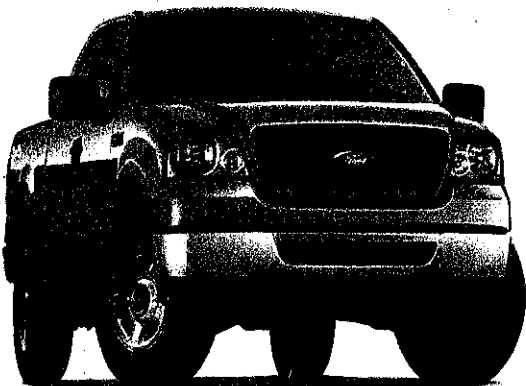
Providence Center for the Healing Arts Colored Pencil Workshop
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month

Providence Center for the Healing Arts Artist in Residence
ONGOING
TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday

Thanksgiving Coloring Contest Winners
Sarah Redmond Winner for 3-6 year olds
Connor Yergin Winner for 7-10 year olds
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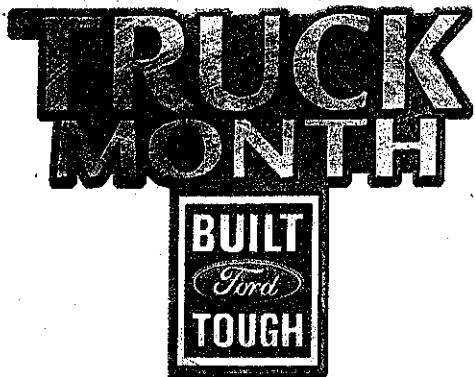


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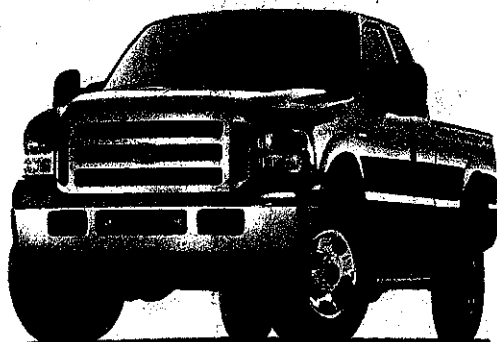


Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2006 Ranger SC 4X4 XLT

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Hoops season comes to end

The Novi Wildcats girls basketball team couldn't find a way to beat the Canton Chiefs in the district final game Friday, losing on a last-minute shot.

— Page 3B



Showdown at Compuware

The Novi Wildcats lost to Northville in hockey last week, 4-3, but will get another chance Dec. 15 when the two teams square off at Compuware Arena.

— Page 3B



Regional Marketplace

Taking a step over the threshold of the Dixboro General Store in Ann Arbor is like taking a step back in time. This historic store, and the adjoining Merchants Home, houses one of the busiest country gift and furniture stores in Michigan.

— Page 4B

SPORTS

Thursday, November 24, 2005

www.novinews.com

B1 Novi News

Quick Hits

Correction

Mike Parrelly and Brad Wolfe's names were misspelled in last week's All-Area edition. Both members of Catholic Central's football team were named to the All-Area squad.

Left off but not forgotten

Ever have one of those moments where you just have to shake your head wondering what went wrong?

Well, Mike Kolis is probably doing that right now. The Novi football standout didn't see his name on the list for All-Area players last week.

He thought he was overlooked. He wasn't. He was just omitted from the list.

Mike Kolis is the kind of player that a coach can depend on. He's in the right spot at the right time, which is one of the reasons he led the team in tackles this year.

To show how much support Kolis has in the community, there were over a dozen calls and e-mails to the sports department wondering why he wasn't selected.

Kolis deserves All-Area credit. The kid, quite frankly, would be a welcome addition to any team. He hits as hard, runs as fast and makes as big of plays as anyone else named a linebacker.

So, welcome aboard, Mike Kolis. We're proud to have you as an official member of the 2005 All-Area football team.

And what about Tom Spisich?

This is a guy everyone expected to be crushing bones at the linebacker position this year but a change of plans landed him as a defensive lineman. His speed and strength made a great move on the part of the coaches, but a lot of double teams and cut blocks reduced his visibility to the fans.

Spisich is one tough kid. He's smart, he's talented and he makes sure the ball doesn't head his way very often. With his linebacker-type awareness, Spisich made for a fierce down lineman who kept the offense on their toes. He's a great addition to the All-Area team and one we're sorry to have omitted last week.

Just 30 more!

Can the Novi Wildcats girls basketball team please schedule another game this year?

We know the playoffs are here and Novi's been bounced out, but Rachele Folino needs just 30 more points to make it an 1,000 for her high school career.

The worst part about it? Folino missed her first game this year. Out of four seasons she missed one thanks to an injury. She could have easily put up 30 in that one too.

Well, it's not as though she hasn't had plenty of milestones already, but it would have been nice to hit a grand on the point total, wouldn't it?

Winter sports season

It's already that time of year? It sure feels like there wasn't much of a break between fall and winter this year, but that's how the world of high school sports works.

Be sure to check the weekly edition of scoreboard to see who's doing what for the Novi Wildcats and the Catholic Central Shamrocks. Coaches submit their results after each game and those results are compiled into a handy source for all of those sports fanatics out there.



Novi's Emily Stark, left, tries to get seriously funny with her teammate Yalda Dastmalchi, right, before they warm up for last week's swim finals at EMU.

Well done, Wildcats!

Novi scores 14 points in swimming and diving state final

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Oh, to be Bill McCord and his Novi Wildcats swimming and diving team. The young squad came into this season with high hopes. Those hopes were fulfilled Friday and Saturday when the girls scored 14 points in the Division I state finals.



Novi's Amy Glubzinski warms up on the one meter board during Friday's state finals.



Novi High's Julie Schramm swims last Friday at EMU's pool during the MHSAA state finals meet.

"We were very pleased with our state meet performances," McCord said.

And why wouldn't they be? The girls tied for 27th overall, finishing as one of the top teams in the state. Winning was Ann Arbor Pioneer, while Farmington Hills Mercy took second. Cross-town rival Northville finished fifth.

The Kensington Valley Conference was also well represented, with South Lyon, Pinckney, Milford and Brighton joining Novi at the finals.

The Wildcats knew they had a lot of potential and proved it by earning a place with their 200-yard medley relay team. The squad finished 16th in the state with a 1:56.65. The time was impressive, especially considering the unexpected adversity the squad had to face.

"Our medley relay had to swim very well to make it back to finals," said McCord. "All four girls swam lifetime best times to accomplish this."

"Unfortunately, our breaststroker, Mary Ruzdzinski, broke her collarbone making the turn of her leg, and couldn't swim on Saturday. Her replacement, Yukie Tamura, did a great job of filling in, but we weren't quite as fast as in the prelims."

The Wildcats also narrowly missed making the finals in the 200 freestyle relay, earning first alternate position and missing Saturday's swims by just 0.2 seconds.

But they weren't edged out in the diving portion of the finals. Novi junior Amy Glubzinski dove to 14th place, scoring 333.70 points.

"She and Coach Teahan did an amazing job throughout the season and she peaked

beautifully," said McCord.

Another individual, freshman Kerry Abel, swam to ninth overall in the state in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 58.98 seconds.

"Kerry Abel also capped a tremendous freshman season with a great state meet," McCord said. "She swam lifetime best times on both relays and in her individual 50 free, and finished our meet by dominating the consolation heat of the 100 fly."

Abel was officially ninth, but posted the sixth best time in the meet. Consolation heat swimmers cannot pass finals heat swimmers in their places.

Novi should have returning swimmers in the state finals next year if the squad can continue its performances from this season. All of the state finals swimmers return next year.

"Novi should be a force to be reckoned with, to say the least," McCord said. "The state meet experience will be extremely valuable to these athletes, all of whom we expect to contribute quality leadership next year."

Though the swimmers will be returning, the state finals coach may not be. McCord said the balancing act he's been pulling may be too much.

"As for me, I'm not certain of my future with the girl's team," he said. "Coaching both the boys and girls is extremely demanding of time and energy, and I'm not sure that I can continue to make this commitment and still be the kind of family man I want to be. I'll have to do some serious thinking when the dust settles — after the boy's season."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at eggleston@gannett.com.

Hard choice

Sometimes, change is good. Other times, it's simply unnecessary.

Last week, as I put on my team swimsuit for the final time, I knew that I could just as easily be tying my volleyball shoes and pulling up my kneecaps while preparing for my last fall athletic competition.

I learned in the winter of my junior year that my two sports could become impossible to balance with the resolution of the female-equity, seasons-altering MHSAA lawsuit.

After a volleyball summer conditioning schedule was distributed in preparation for a new fall season and the following year's swim schedule had been finalized, I considered my options and realized that my high school sports career might be over before Thanksgiving of my senior year.

Why? Because two parents, in a lawsuit filed before the class of 2006 was even in high school, believed that unconventional Michigan sports seasons were to blame when their girls did not receive college athletic scholarships.

"I've said all along that I was concerned about the motivation for the lawsuit," Novi High School athletic director Curt Ellis said. "I've never felt that getting college scholarships was a purpose in high school sports, and therefore, I was concerned that the lawsuit might have been somewhat flawed in its intentions."

Varsity volleyball coach Julie Fisetto added, "I don't necessarily think (changing Michigan's athletic seasons) would provide more scholarships or anything like that. I think it would take the excuse out of some people, that the reason they didn't get a scholarship was because we don't play in the fall. If you level the playing field, you don't have that."

However, a 2004 study by the National Federation of State High School Associations showed that Michigan ranked seventh in the nation in Division I volleyball scholarship recipients.

Has the lack of a "level playing field" caused our athletes to be among the most recruited in the nation? It's difficult to fix Michigan's problem when, compared to statistics from the 43 states that receive fewer scholarships, it seems to be a relative nonissue.

Although the lawsuit has not been dominant in headlines since the May ruling, Ellis said that the court's appeal decision could be made "any day."

"I do know that, from the Supreme Court of the United States right on down to the circuit courts, there are a lot of judicial appointments that are taking place right now that are taking center stage," he said.

"All those plans and discussions we had, we've filed them away, and if we hear (the decision) as soon as tomorrow, we'll be prepared to start planning again."

In a case that has centered around preparing for change, I know that I could have missed out on the chance to be the captain of a team that qualified six girls for state championships and had the best league record in four years, or I could have missed out on the chance to try this winter for a third straight district title and second straight KVC championship. Above all, I would have lost the opportunity to be a senior on both teams, to finish high school with the same girls I became teammates and friends with as freshmen.

Even now, months after I first learned about the lawsuit, the question is still just as difficult to answer: after participating in both sports for a combined twelve years, fourteen seasons, and countless practices, which would I choose?

I'm thankful that I will never have to make that decision.

Courtney Ratkowiak is a sports intern for the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Courtney Ratkowiak

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 4B

Novi News

Thursday, November 24, 2005

ADVERTISEMENT

Prepare Your Automobile for the Cold Weather

Wixom, Mich., November 23, 2005 - At the first sign of cold weather, many of us scurry to make sure our home is "winterized;" we check over the furnace, replace drafty windows, try on last year's coat and pull out the down comforter. One more thing we need to double check so we're not left out in the cold is our car.

"The cold winter months can be very hard on your automobile," says Allstate Agent Louis Kirby. "If you notice any problems with your automobile, have your mechanic take a look at it now so that you do not end up stranded on a cold winter day."

The following tips from Allstate Insurance Company will help to prepare your automobile for the cold weather:

- Make sure that if your engine is experiencing hard starts, stalling or having other problems that you get it repaired;
- Windshield wiper blades that are not making full contact with the window or that are dried out should be replaced. Also make sure to keep extra washer fluid and an ice scraper in your car;
- Keep a cold weather safety kit in your car that includes gloves, boots, blankets, flares, water and a flashlight;
- Examine your tires for tread life and uneven wearing. Also make sure tires are properly inflated, tires lose a pound of pressure for every 10 degrees the temperature drops;
- Make sure the heater and defroster are properly working to ensure passenger comfort and driver visibility;
- The cooling system should be flushed every two years with a 50/50 mixture of antifreeze and water. Have the level, condition and concentration of the antifreeze mixture checked periodically;
- Have your mechanic check your battery fluid levels, battery posts and cable connectors. Bad connections can keep your car from starting;
- Brakes should be checked as recommended, but if you are having trouble such as pulsations, noises or longer stopping distances, get a professional to look at it right away; and
- Make sure all lights and bulbs are in working order and replace any burned-out bulbs.

For more information on this and other safety topics, contact Allstate Agent Louis Kirby at 248-669-0755.

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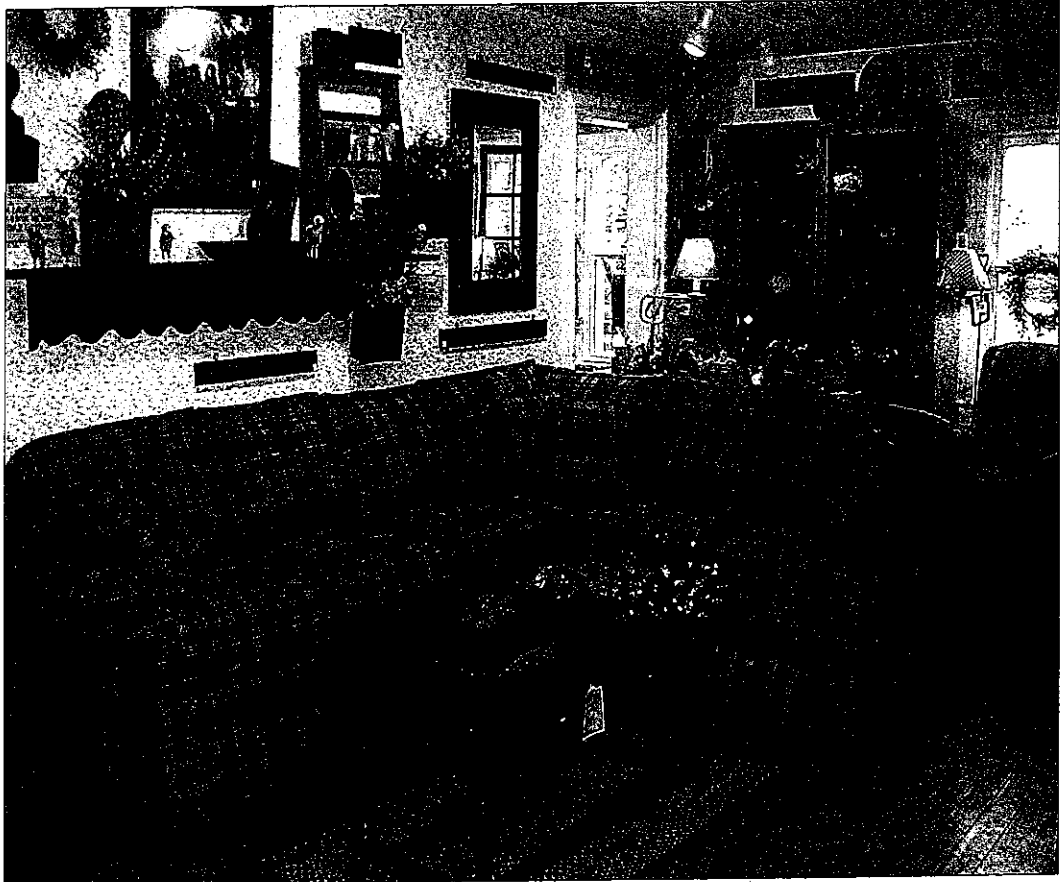
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The Dixboro Store offers a cozy atmosphere for customers to peruse catalogs, select fabrics for upholstered furniture or just enjoy a day in the country.

Dixboro Store rekindles old, new charm

Customers still flock to historic store

By Pam Flehling
STAFF WRITER

Taking a step over the threshold of the Dixboro General Store in Ann Arbor is like taking a step back in time.

This historic store, and the adjoining Merchants Home, houses one of the busiest country gift and furniture stores in Michigan.

Although customers can purchase jellies, candies and fudge at the store, what really attracts people is its selection of furniture, home accessories and year-round seasonal items.

This time of year, Christmas dominates the store's appearance.

From ornaments, garlands, wreaths and trees to unique gifts and table top items, the store is a great place to shop for the holidays.

"If you visit the store in the spring or summer, it will have a completely different look with its outdoor gardens and greenhouse. In fact, the store's look is constantly changing, which the owners attribute to their talented staff.

Store has colorful history

Nestled in the small village of Dixboro, just outside bustling Ann Arbor, the Dixboro General Store has long been a landmark to neighboring towns.

The store was built around 1840, seven years before the birth of Thomas Edison and nearly 20 years before the beginning of the Civil War.

It sold general merchandise, sur-

living in the early years by trading with locals and travelers. Plymouth Road was once the main route connecting Detroit and Ann Arbor, taking a team of horses with a load of goods a minimum of three days.

The upstairs usually housed the merchant's family, who often entertained neighbors on the front porch with their guitars and fiddles.

The east side of the current store, which now houses the store's Bear Room, player piano and kitchen, was actually a separate house until it was connected to the general store in 1995.

Around 1915 and continuing for many years, the upstairs of the store was used as a Saturday night dance hall. Customers now walk on the same hardwood dance floor installed in the 1920s. In that same decade, the store owner installed a gas pump and sold gasoline for those fashionable Model T's that replaced the horse and buggy.

Later, a small hot dog stand was even set out front to grab the attention of the many cars traveling Plymouth Road to University of Michigan football games.

In 1964, the store changed from general merchandise to antiques and remained an antique store until the 1980s.

The store had been vacant for several years when Allan and Cheryl Goode purchased the property in 1990, renovated the store and reopened its doors in 1991.

"When we first reopened the store in this tiny village, we didn't know if people would come," Allan said. "But, as soon as we opened our doors, we knew it was a success. People visit the store for an afternoon in the country, even though we're only a few miles from busy Plymouth and Ann Arbor."

Today, thousands of people cross the threshold into the general



The Dixboro General Store, located on Plymouth Road east of Ann Arbor, is a landmark to neighboring towns. The quaint, frame house features a large collection of furniture, home accessories and seasonal items.

store each year, and it has nearly 40,000 people on its mailing list.

Not only does the store offer a unique shopping experience, but during special events scheduled several times a year, customers can enjoy such activities as carriage rides, outdoor bands, signings by nationally known artists and authors and a twice-yearly barn sale.

"I hear a lot of women say that this is one of the few stores their husbands actually enjoy," Cheryl said. Children love the old-fashioned candy and toys, and parents like to show little ones items they remember from their younger days.

Specialty gifts for holidays include several lines of candles, including the popular Yankee Candles, collectible pottery lines and hand-painted signs to name a few.

Furniture and upholstery

The Dixboro General Store has a wide variety of furniture styles, wood types and colors.

DIXBORO GENERAL STORE

<p>■ Dixboro General Store 5206 Plymouth Road Ann Arbor, MI Phone: (734) 663-5558 Toll free: 1-800-DIXBORO Store hours: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, visit www.dixboro.com.</p>	<p>■ Santa visits Dixboro Noon-4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays November 26, 27 December 3, 4 December 10, 11 December 17, 18 Bring your camera for a photo with Santa.</p>
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Upholstered lines feature hundreds of fabrics and styles. Shoppers can find something for every room in the house.

"Many people don't realize that we sell furniture," Cheryl said. "But, in fact, we are one of the top dealers for most of our furniture lines."

Not only is all of the store's furniture American made, but it's solid wood — built to last a lifetime.

The store's sales floor has on display only a small portion of what furniture can be ordered. Looking for a specific piece? The store's online catalog can provide ideas, options and sizes.

So, no matter what you're looking for, you're likely to find it at the Dixboro General Store.

A visit to this legendary building will be long-remembered, whether young or old.

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