



Novi News

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Volume 50 Number 37

Novi, Michigan

INSIDE



Creating masterpieces

Epoch Events' chef Terry Foster preps vegetables in the company's large kitchen inside the Rock Financial Showplace. Epoch became the facility's exclusive caterer when it opened last year.

— Page 6A

Celebrating triple digits

Whitehall resident Helen Burnston turned a 100 a week ago. Read what she and other locals have to say about hitting the century mark.

— Page 14A

SPORTS



The air up there

Wildcat Cateb Dean — a 6'8" sophomore — has high hopes for his basketball career.

— 1B

INDEX

Business	..A8
Calendar	..19A
Classifieds	..1D
Community	..4A
Education	..12A
Faith	..15A
Food	..5B
Health	..10A
Opinion	..16A
People	..15A
Regional Marketplace	..6B
Seniors	..14A
Sports	..1B

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Special Information:

Battle Grounds

Whole 'latte' coffee craze in Novi

■ No room for decaf or regular; the future brews cappuccinos and mochass

By Tracy Misher
STAFF WRITER

Suzette Bannell is a non-fat extra hot Caramel Macchiato or a white chocolate mocha, depending where she stops for her daily coffee.

"I've gotten to the point where I don't like regular coffee anymore," said the Northville resident. "I like flavored drinks."

Like Bannell, many people are choosing to have it their way when it comes to their daily coffee. And places like Starbucks, Caribou Coffee and Beaner's Gourmet Coffee in Novi are brewing up gallons of flavored drinks daily to keep regular and non-regulars in line for their personal favorites.

Chaisy Collins said people are choosing to spend a few minutes more in local coffee houses due to the convenience.

"People are getting more high-maintenance these days," said the supervisor at Caribou Coffee on Grand River Avenue. "People like their extras, and they like being able to come in and order exactly what they want."

Collins said many coffee shops still sell coffee beans, but already brewed coffee is where the real sales are.

continued on page 3



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Beaner's employees Abou Jallow, left, and Drew Bartlett team up to make a mocha-mocha coffee drink. Their shop, at the northeast corner of Beck and Pontiac Trail, has been open about two weeks.

All five schools "neighborhood"

■ Novi School Board votes to redistrict, add more full-day kindergarten

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Bruce Bagdady's biggest wish is that the Novi community can now come together as a whole and move on.

It may take a while for that to be granted to the school board president following last Thursday's school board meeting. The board voted to:

- redistrict and what the parameters will be;
- form a School Utilization and Redistricting Committee; and
- make every K-4 elementary — including Deerfield — a neighborhood school.

Those decisions didn't sit well with the Deerfield staff and parents in attendance. Most were upset and some were even crying after hearing the decision.

"Given that I was one of the first parents to move my kids out of their current school and into Deerfield six years ago with my fourth grader and my second grader, I feel betrayed that my kid was a seat filler and I didn't know it," said Bobbie Murphy minutes after the decision was made. "I was told on the philosophy and I bought into it from

2007 Elementary Redistricting Parameters

The Novi Community School District Board of Education voted every K-4 elementary school will be a neighborhood school and have its own attendance area beginning in the 2007-08 school year. It passed 4-3, as it was presented. Board members Bruce Bagdady, George Korlandi, Dave Brown and Ann Glubzinski voted yes. Board members Dan Austin, Julia Abrams and Carol Biring voted no.

continued on page 2

"...I feel betrayed that my kid was a seat filler and I didn't know it."

Bobbie Murphy
Parent of Deerfield students

City-owned acreage to be designated parkland

■ Councilman says move's an important step

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Three parcels of city-owned land in Novi next to parks will be officially designated as parkland in the near future.

The suggestion was made by Council Member Andrew Mutch at the Feb. 6 city council meeting and was unanimously supported by his fellow council members.

Mutch said it is important that these properties be included in the city's parks inventory to protect them and to have the city's Master Plan for Land Use and

Community Recreation Plan reflect the parcels as parkland. Having these two documents "on the same page" as Mutch described it, is also essential when it comes to obtaining state or federal grants for parkland.

"We want to get those two plans in sync," Mutch said.

The properties in question were donated or acquired by the city and are currently designated by the city's master plan as Public Parks and Open Space.

But, none of the properties were formally designated by the council to be parkland. Council members supported Mutch's idea to direct the city administration to draft a resolution for three properties to be designated as parkland. The land includes only properties currently owned by the city and does not include any properties still in control of private developers. The city acquired these 127.6 acres over several years.

Mutch noted that officially designating such city-owned parcels as parkland was one of the city council's goals.

Council Member Kim Capello noted that there is also some city-owned property on South Lake Drive that could be added to this list.

Another area was mentioned in the M5 mitigation area that the

Parcs, Recreation and Forestry Department is talking about acquiring. This land will be discussed at a later date.

Council Member Tom Nagy supported Mutch's suggestion to designate the city-owned parcels as parkland.

"I think this is important when we do grant applications," Nagy said. "I think it's a good idea."

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@gannett.com.

New parkland

The properties of city-owned parcels to be officially designated as parkland include:

- Bristol Corners South donation adjacent to Lakewood Park property. The 16.49 acres were donated to the city in 2003.
- Audubon Society property next to Rotary Park. The city acquired this 2.22 acres next to the park between Eight and Nine Mile roads in 1998.
- Singh Trail properties between Nine and 10 Mile roads south of the intersection of 10 Mile and Wboom roads.



A. Mutch

Helping paralyzed veterans of America, one at a time

■ Michigan Chapter advocates for those down on their luck

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's usually a last resort, but when paralyzed war veterans need help getting something healthy people can get with no problem, they call Michael Harris.

Harris is the deputy executive director of Paralyzed Veterans of America, Michigan Chapter. His job is to advocate for those who "are down on their luck."

"It's almost like brainstorming because a lot of times there isn't always an answer, but usually if you talk it over with a person you find that there is a solution to a lot

of problems," said Harris. The organization advocates for members who are "spinal-cord injured veterans, or spinal-cord injured disabled veterans. It helps to make sure they get the benefits they've earned through services to their country."

"I also advocate when their civil rights are violated," said Harris. "What benefits our members, in a lot of instances, will also benefit the disabled community."

The organization's origin

The Michigan Chapter was created in 1961 and has about 500 members.

Members must be war veterans and have spinal cord injuries and/or diseases. The organization has been headquartered in Novi for about 11 years.

One of the accomplishments Harris is most proud of is the

organization's partnership with Ford Field and Comerica Park in Detroit.

"When it came to the design of the stadiums, we wanted to make sure they were designed so wheelchair users could freely access the facilities without having to face architectural barriers," said Harris.

"We worked with the management from both organizations along with the architect. You try to get to them before they build, because after it's very difficult to change."

Harris' organization is currently working with the University of Michigan on the school's renovation to Michigan Stadium.

Harris said one of the many unique abilities he has is being able to think "outside of the box. He tries to be as creative as possible while coming up with solutions to problems."

continued on page 3

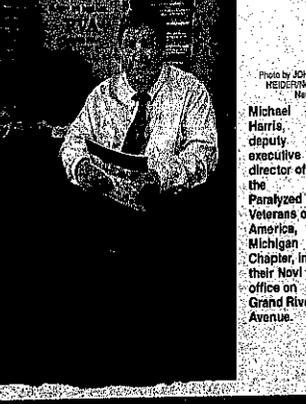


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Michael Harris, deputy executive director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Michigan Chapter, in their Novi office on Grand River Avenue.

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Novi School Board votes to redistrict, add more full-day kindergarten

continued from front page

The beginning based on the information I had.

"My first impression of this district was that it's forward thinking, and I just feel like we've taken steps to do that," Murphy added. "It's not going to help mend the divide. We need to do that amongst ourselves."

More kindergarten coming

The board also voted to add up to four additional sections of full-day kindergarten and reduced class sizes in kindergarten to the elementary program in the 2006-07 school year.

The intent is to meet the request of parents for full-day kindergarten.

"If it turns out there is only a demand for three more, we would just add three," said Bagdadly, board president. "Deerfield obviously has a full complement of full-day with four sections, and that won't change."

The total number of additional sections will not exceed four in the 2006-07 school year. Also, half-day kindergarten programs throughout the district will stay the same, and not be taken away.

Susan Choma, who has one child at Parkview and another who will be attending kindergarten at Parkview in the fall, was in attendance.

"I'm wondering how this is going to affect the children who will be transferred to Deerfield," she said. "The board has already acknowledged that Deerfield's teaching philosophy works for some kids but not others. Why then would they send kids involuntarily to that school once they redistrict when that learning environment might not be suitable for certain kids? I think they still need to address that issue and take a good long hard look at it."

The Parkview perspective

Parkview Elementary stands to be the most affected school by redistricting taking place, due to its current overcrowding dilemma — one of the main reasons the board contemplated redistricting.

"I've spoken to parents who are calling me that overall it's important that they, as parents, help to make

Elementary details

The board voted 7-0 that elementary buildings shall have individual rooms for:

- Art
- Music
- Media/Library
- Physical Education
- Reading Area
- Cafeteria

Each building will have the necessary special education rooms.

The board voted 6-1 (Ann Gluzinski, no) on elementary class size guidelines for building enrollment capacity purposes.

Elementary building student class sizes shall be:

- Kindergarten: 18-22
- First Grade: 22-23
- Second Grade: 22-23
- Third Grade: 25
- Fourth Grade: 25

any kind of transition as positive as possible for the children," said Jennifer Michos, Parkview principal. "No matter what, we're trying to stay positive for the sake of the children to make the transition as easy as possible for them when it does happen."

Bagdadly is confident the community understands the board did what it felt was best for students. He hopes when all is said and done the community will support that decision and move forward.

"I would expect those who disagreed with the decision to wake up the next morning and suddenly agree with what we did," he said. "I think the whole board supports what the decision was. Obviously, we had seven people with seven different views on the issue, but I know we all understand why we make decisions. With that in mind, I'm certain the

board as a whole will embrace the decision that was made."

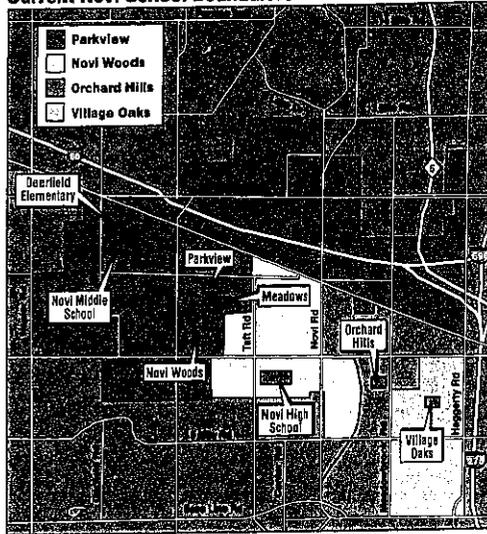
Bagdadly said he was not surprised the vote was 4-3 (see sidebar) to make Deerfield a neighborhood school.

"When you have an issue that has merit on both sides, and an issue which brings out very strong feelings in people, you can't be surprised when you have a vote as close as this one," he said.

Bagdadly voted yes to make Deerfield a neighborhood school.

Ramesh 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.

Current Novi School Boundaries



SOURCE: Novi Community School District

"I was left with weighing the value of choice versus the divisiveness this issue has raised over the years, the growth in population and the inequities involved," said Bagdadly. "Academically, the data shows that all five elementary schools are providing a superior education. Choice has value, but in the end, given the excellent opportunities provided in all of our buildings, that value was outweighed by the countervailing concerns."

Bagdadly said that fact is particularly true, given he has been told by many educators the Deerfield method of instruction is not uniquely suited to a particular type of student.

"I believe this decision is the most fair and equitable both for our students and our community, and is more fiscally responsible," he said.

Deerfield's reaction

Deerfield principal Richard Nias is happy his school is able to keep full-day kindergarten, which he said is an integral part of the building's program. He was hopeful to keep the option of choice, but believes the district now has to use a different strategy.

"We have to start the healing process of all that's going on in the district," he said. "The bottom line is, whoever walks through the doors of (Deerfield), our staff, myself and the parents who are here, are going to love them and work with them and give them the best education we possibly can."

John Williams said he doesn't have time to brew a fresh cup of Joe in the morning, so he makes it a point to stop every morning for his triple grande non-fat Caffe Latte.

"There are so many choices these days," said the 48-year-old Novi resident. "At first I thought it was weird to have a specific coffee preference, but if you look around, everyone does."

According to the Specialty Coffee Association of America, more than 77 percent of American adults, roughly 161 million consumers, are daily coffee drinkers.

No room for decaf or regular; the future brews cappuccinos and mochas

continued from front page

"We also have a lot of regulars," she said. "People like to know that we know them."

New to the Novi coffee scene is Beamer's Gourmet Coffee on Beech Road and Pontiac Trail, which opened Feb. 6.

Beamer's is an East Lansing-based coffee franchise, founded in 1995 by Bob Fish and Mary Rozel, offering more than 30 specialty coffee, tea and frozen drinks.

Aside from brewing up fresh drinks daily, Beamer's also carries a wide variety of soups, sandwiches, pastries and fruits.

"I'm pleased to be part of the Novi Community and the growth that is experiencing," said Novi Beamer's owner Lenore Kotzinski in a statement. "Beamer's offers a unique and personal retail experience and I'm glad I can bring it to the people of Novi and the surrounding communities."

Williams said his kids also make special trips to Starbucks for their signature coffee-based cocktails before heading to school.

"It's probably just another day, but if they're stopping for coffee instead of getting in trouble, more power to them," Williams said. "It seems everywhere you go nowadays, there is some sort of specialty coffee drink aside from the traditional decaf or regular cups."

According to a local Starbucks employee, coffee is all about quality.

"You're never going to be able to do this at home," said the employee. "It's just a quick and easy way to get what you want on the way to work."

Aside from traditional coffee houses like Starbucks, places like Dunkin' Donuts, 7-Eleven and gas stations are also heating up the beverage competition.

"If I don't have time to stop at Starbucks," Williams said, "I'll stop at Mobil for a French Vanilla Cappuccino."

"I guess you can call my morning caffeine jolt an addiction ... it's hard to go without it."

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.



A freshly prepared grande mocha at the new Beamer's in Novi.

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Beamer's Gourmet Coffee
Location: 31208 Beck Rd.
Hours: 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Contact: (248) 624-1890
Web site: www.beamers.com

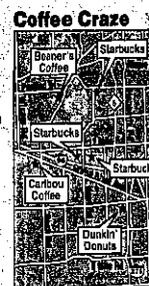
Starbucks Coffee
Location: 27795 Novi Rd.
Hours: 5:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
Monday-Thursday: 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday
Saturday: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday
Contact: (248) 380-3774
Web site: www.starbucks.com

Starbucks Coffee
Location: 42151 W. 14 Mile Rd.
Hours: 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 5:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday
Contact: (248) 826-1458
Web site: www.starbucks.com

Starbucks Coffee
Location: 27342 Novi Rd., Twelve Oaks Mall
Hours: 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday
Contact: (248) 305-7022
Web site: www.starbucks.com

Caribou Coffee
Location: 47490 Grand River Avenue
Hours: 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday; 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday
Contact: (248) 305-9072
Web site: www.cariboucoffee.com

Dunkin' Donuts
Location: 39415 W. 10 Mile Rd.
Hours: 24 hours a day, seven days a week
Contact: (248) 426-5348
Web site: www.dunkindonuts.com



SOURCE: Google Maps

Michael Harris is helping paralyzed veterans one at a time

continued from front page

"There really isn't one way of doing something," he said. "You have to find the best way for a particular situation."

Just another day in the office

There isn't such a thing as a typical day on the job for Harris. He works 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, but some days he's still working in the evenings, or even on the weekends, depending on what's going on.

His job doesn't always find him behind a desk either. Recently, for example, he was on a radio show talking about the organization.

"I'm out there promoting the organization and letting people know who we are," said Harris. "It's an ongoing job."

Most issues are determined by what's going on at the time. Issues often change, and have to set criteria. A lot of the job entails problem solving and putting out fires.

"One of our big advocacy issues is access to the community that you live in," Harris said. "A lot of that deals with architecture. People need to be able to get into a restaurant or a movie theater without having to face architectural barriers."

The organization also works to educate the business community and local governments. It sometimes is forced to file lawsuits, but that's usually a last resort.

"The overall idea is treat people the way you want them to treat you," said Harris. "If people's civil rights are violated in housing or employment, we're available to help."

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Michigan Chapter, has free educational materials available to the public.

Visit www.michiganpva.org, or call (248) 476-9000 for more information.

Ramesh 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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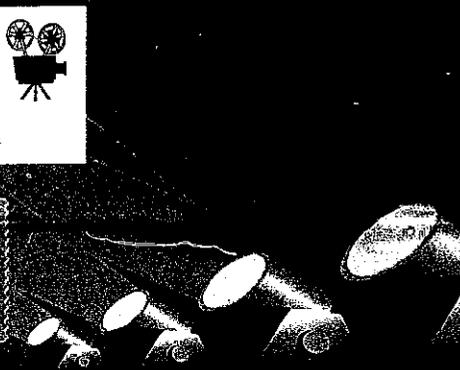
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The Parkview perspective

Parkview Elementary stands to be the most affected school by redistricting taking place, due to its current overcrowding dilemma — one of the main reasons the board contemplated redistricting.

"I've spoken to parents who are calling me that overall it's important that they, as parents, help to make

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Epoch creating masterpieces Rock Financial Showplace

From weddings to corporate get-togethers, catering to a variety of needs

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Shawn Hall has a passion for creating sugary masterpieces. With help from several culinary masters, Hall's sweet creations come to life at every event coordinated by Novi-based Epoch Events Catering.

"I love the fact that I could bring my own repertoire to this company," said the executive pastry chef for Epoch. "This company has given me the freedom to express my ideas."

Hall is among several hundred people employed by Epoch, exclusive caterer to the Diamond Center at the Rock Financial Showplace and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at the Max M. Fisher Music Center.

"Catering is very important in this business," Hall said. "We have to work as a team... we're all meshed together to make it work."

Epoch Events Catering offers a wide array of cuisine and full-service catering for civic, cultural and charitable events, as well as private and corporate functions at a multitude of venues throughout the metro Detroit area.

Born out of the hotel industry, Epoch was founded in 1982 by Northville resident Tom Wisne-Sabina, who currently manages several Michigan-based restaurants, including Tribute, Erie and Just a Flair.

Aside from restaurants, Wisne-Sabina launched Epoch Events Catering in 2004, which expanded her expertise into off-site catering and event planning with the same attention to detail and service.

"We were fortunate to become the exclusive caterer in 2005 to the Rock Financial Showplace,"



Photos by JERRY HEIDER/NOV NEWS

Shawn Hall, pastry chef for Epoch Events, prepares Valentine's Day chocolate shell mousse cake gifts for Epoch's clients in their kitchen at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace.

said Bob Bannazi, general manager of the Diamond Center and off-premises catering. "We have the ability to do so much. The Diamond Center is kind of what we are, a real gem."

On top of the Rock Financial Showplace's 215,000-square-foot exhibition center, the Diamond Center brings an extra 200,000

square feet of conference and banquet space.

Bannazi said the company is working toward continuing weddings in the future.

"We were just booked our first wedding a few days ago,"

Bannazi said. "We're starting to have brides come in and look at the facility. This will be a great addition to all Epoch Events has to offer."

John Bowen, executive director and general manager for the Rock Financial Showplace said Epoch was chosen to cater the cuisine needs at the event center due to

their reputation as being high-quality and well respected.

"We had a number of positive comments both on the facility and the food that Epoch provides," Bowen said. "They're a good partner to work with... they do a great job."

Bannazi said Epoch also does a great deal for the community, both in Novi and around metro Detroit.

Bank the Diamond

Contact Courtney Teagle (248) 348-5600 ext. #227-1 or Cheryl Donovan ext. #228. For off-site events, Danielle Luebig (248) 735-7222

Web sites: www.epochevents.com or www.epochrestaurantgroup.com



A Shawn Hall-created pastry for Epoch Events' clients.

great deal for the community, both in Novi and around metro Detroit.

"After most parties, leftovers are sent to local food banks in the community," he said. "We try to be part of the community as much as we can."

Epoch will cater several upcoming events in Novi, including a mothers and sons brunch and Christmas gala at Catholic Central High School, the Novi High School senior prom, local graduation parties, sports banquets, box lunch drop-offs, afternoon teas and more.

"And when we're done, all people can say is 'wow,'" said Paul Hess, director of operations for Epoch Restaurant Group. "Aside from good food, if we're in your house we won't leave without your dishwasher running."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Farewell lunch slated for Chief Art Lenaghan

The public is invited to a special luncheon honoring retiring Novi Fire Chief Art Lenaghan from noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesday at Fire Station #1.

The station is on the south side of Grand River Avenue just east of Novi Road.

Lenaghan is retiring after 28 years of service to the Novi community.

The catered luncheon will include sandwiches, a variety of salads, soft drinks, dessert and more for \$10 per person.

Deadline for registration is today. For more information, contact Stacey or Karen in the Community Relations Office at communityrelations@novi.mn.us or call (248) 735-5628.

Gift contributions can also be made by contacting the Community Relations Office.

Commissioners donate funds

Oakland County Commissioners will donate \$1,500 to Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's effort to repeal the Single Business Tax following the State of the County Address last Wednesday.

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The 15-member Republican Caucus will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 10 a.m. in the Board Room of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Board Chairman Bill Ballant, Jr. (Highland, Holly, Rose and Springfield Townships as well as the Village of Holly in District #2).

Board Vice Chairman Hugh D. Crawford (Northville and Novi as well as Novi Township in District #9).

Board Caucus Chair Eileen T. Kowall (Waterford and White Lake townships in District #4).

Sen. Ann Daughler (Rochester and Rochester Hills in District #12).

Greg Jamian (Orchard Lake Village, the townships of West Bloomfield and Bloomfield in District #16).

Christine A. Long (Commerce and Milford townships as well as the villages of Wolverine Lake and Milford in District #7).

Thomas F. Middleton (Village of Clarkston and the Waterford and Independence Townships in District #4).

William D. Molnar (Cities of Troy and Rochester Hills as well as Bloomfield).

Chuck Moss (Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Troy and the township of Bloomfield in District #13).

Charles E. Palmer (Clarkston and Troy in District #19).

William R. Patterson (Addison, Bingham, Clawson, Independence and Oxford Townships as well as Leonard, Ortonville and Oxford villages in District #1).

Jeff Potter (Cities of Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Westland, as well as Lyon Township in District #8).

John A. Scott (Keego Harbor, Lake Angelus and Sylvan Lake as well as Waterford and West Bloomfield Townships in District #5).

Mike Rogers (Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills in District #14).

Eric S. Wilson (Orion and Oakland townships as well as the Village of Lake Orion in District #3).

For more information, contact Commissioner Eileen T. Kowall at (248) 425-9708.

Free teleconferencing offered

Military families in Michigan can take advantage of a free teleconferencing program that enables them to communicate with their loved ones overseas.

The teleconferencing is free to all families throughout Michigan. To arrange a call, contact Diane Eggen, U.S. Army National Guard, at (517) 481-8004.

"To talk in real time to family members overseas can make such a difference in troop morale and family spirits," said Oakland County Commissioner Marcia Gustafson.

The equipment is based at the Pontiac Armory and is available to all families throughout Michigan. To arrange a call, contact Diane Eggen, U.S. Army National Guard, at (517) 481-8004.

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Winners of the annual must demonstrate a clear and convincing commitment to public safety in their communities. Programs are judged on four components:

• scope and duration of the project

• complexity or difficulty of the project

• degree of innovation involved and results achieved.

Recognized agencies received a plaque and a \$2,000 grant contributed by OHSF for traffic safety equipment, overtime or training.

"I am very proud to have played a part in this important new way of serving our citizens while honoring the sacrifice being made by their relatives so far away," Gustafson said.

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BUSINESS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novinews.com fax (248) 349-9832



Photo by PAM FLEMING

Bonefish Grill opens at Novi Town Center

Menu best described as 'South Florida'

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Bonefish Grill, a chain of seafood restaurants founded in St. Petersburg, Fla., has come to Novi.

With the slogan, "We get fish. You get fresh," the new location on the south side of Novi Town Center at 43304 11 Mile Road opened Feb. 6. This is the second restaurant in the Metro Detroit area.

"We have been extremely pleased with the reception that we have received since we opened our restaurant in Sterling Heights this past December," said Julian Copesey, joint venture partner for Michigan.

"Our polished, casual seafood restaurant appeals to those who crave high-quality seafood in a comfortable, lively atmosphere."

The 5,685-square-foot restaurant's dining room features an open kitchen and large bar area with three community tables. Capacity is 215, which includes seating for 22 in the bar.

Bonefish Grill specializes in market fresh fish grilled over an oak-burning grill, which gives the fish a tasty, even cook. An array of sauces gives diners many options on entrees.

Daily specials allow the staff to prepare fish with a topping they think is unique.

Appetizers include such offerings as Bang Bang Shrimp, a crispy shrimp tossed in a creamy, spicy sauce; Crab Cakes with jumbo lump crab centered and served with sauces; Ahi Tuna Sashimi sliced thin with wasabi and pickled ginger.

Homemade desserts include Creme Brûlée with whipped cream and berries, Deep Dish Key Lime Pie with roasted pecan crust and whipped cream and Chocolate Macadamia Nut Brownie Cake with raspberry sauce, vanilla ice cream and whipped cream.

Signature martinis include selections such as the Hopalong Brezzer Martini, the Leslie Aphrodisiac, the Insomnio Martini and the Bonefish Martini (Don't worry — there's no fish in it.)

A wide selection of wine, including a reserve wine list, and several choices of beer are also available.

"We are very excited about our opening here in Novi," said Brian O'Hara, proprietor. "We are committed to taking the mystery out of fish for people who don't eat it very often."

Waiters and waitresses are known as "anglers." Server trainer Joey Fichetti was in the Novi restaurant last week from the Gainesville, Fla. store along with trainers from other locations across the country.

Bonefish Grill's Novi restaurant's three investors include O'Hara, Copesey and Outback Steakhouse, Inc., the parent company.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.

What's a bonefish?

A bonefish is a slender, silvery, small-scaled fish that is a notable sport and food fish of warm seas. It's indigenous to the Gulf of Mexico on the Florida coastline. "It tastes good, but it's hard to prepare," said Bonefish Grill proprietor Brian O'Hara.

"It's known as the ghost of the flats because it swims in such shallow water," according to James Smith, front house coordinator of the Novi restaurant. "They're fighters. They're fast and they're fun to catch."

Founders Tim Corci and the late Chris Parker, who opened the first restaurant in 1999, named the chain Bonefish Grill because they used to love to go bonefishing.

Bonefish Grill details

Dinner is served at the new Bonefish Grill in Novi, located at 43304 11 Mile Road in Novi Town Center, from 4-10:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 4-11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 4-10 p.m. Sunday.

Reservations are not required but are available by calling (248) 347-1835.



Photo by PAM FLEMING

Dave Durkes, left, front of the house manager; Julian Copesey, joint venture partner for Michigan; and James Smith, coordinator of training, were in the house Feb. 6 at the Bonefish Grill restaurant in Novi.

Julian Copesey, joint venture partner for Michigan, watches as Shaun Gordon of Birmingham, Ala., waits to grab a plate from the kitchen at the new Bonefish Grill in the southwest corner of Novi Town Center. The new chain restaurant opened Feb. 6.

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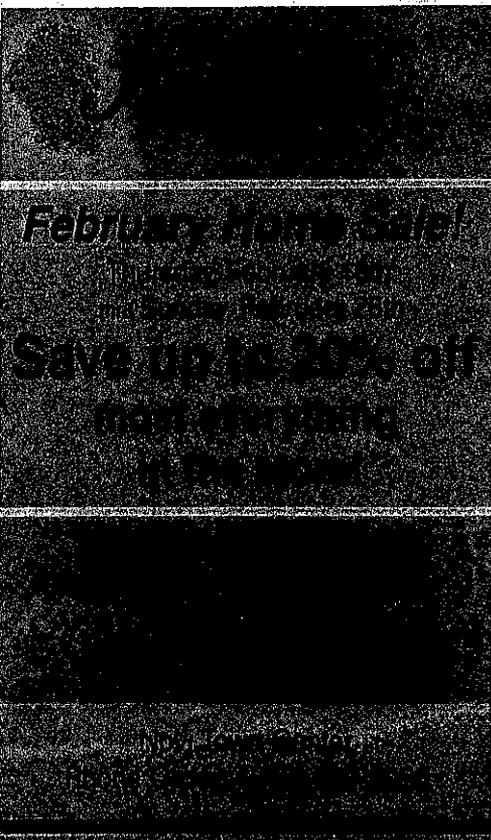


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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Construction begins

Twelve Oaks Mall has finally embarked on the construction phase of the mall's expansion, the addition of Nordstrom. The lower level parking lot near Lord and Taylor will be closed during construction. Due to the entrance closure, the Customer Service Desk, formerly located near Lord and Taylor, has been moved to the Lifestyle Cafe Food Court.

Happenings at Borders

Borders Books in Novi will be hosting several events including Disney Princess Storytime at noon tomorrow. This event is for children. Each child will receive a special princess gift while supplies last.

Borders also welcomes science fiction writer Timothy Zahn at 7 p.m. Feb. 24. Zahn will read from his book, "Star Wars: Outbound Flight," the sequel to "Star Wars: Heir of the Empire." Zaire-born, American-bred rocker Venice Mauk will deliver an original mix of music with his new album, "Which Way is Out," at Borders at 7:30 p.m. March 3. The performance is open to the public.

Help for retirees

Last month in Novi the State of the State address, Gov. Jennifer Granholm suggested a program to help those who don't have 401k programs to save for retirement. Under the proposal, the state would not contribute money to the plans.

The state said \$100 could set up a state-aided 401k retirement program for residents whose employers don't offer one. State Treasurer Jay Rising said once in place, the program would fund itself out of participants' investments.

Rising said four in 10 employees don't save for retirement. Senate Finance Committee Chairwoman Nancy Cunniff (R-Nowi) said the government should only provide services individuals can't provide themselves. She said the private sector already offers such a service.

Cigna Corporation joins forces with healthcare society

Cigna Corporation, a network specialist, has become a member of the Healthcare Information

and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). With a steady increase in the adoption of Cigna's Adaptive wide area networks solution among healthcare organizations, including Northville's Trinity Health, UIC Davis Medical Center and Dornbracht Children's Hospital, Cigna is creating flexible wide area networks to support a variety of healthcare-related technology applications including business continuity, HIPAA compliance, remote storage extension and picture archiving communication systems.

Healthy lifestyles in Northville

A new community fitness initiative titled "Northville's 30 days to healthy lifestyles" will kick off from 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 4 at the Water Wheel Health Club on Griswold Street. The event objective is to address the worldwide situation of obesity and lack of overall activity at a community level. This initiative will combine fitness, education, health screenings, fun and food for the entire family.

This collaborative effort is hosted by Northville Parks and Recreation, the Northville Chamber of Commerce, the Water Wheel Health Club and St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

The kick-off is a free event open to the public and includes free cholesterol and blood pressure screening, posture assessments, personal lifestyle assessments, chair massages, healthy snacks, kids activities and more. The event kicks off 30 days of a variety of physical activities and educational seminars such as smoking cessation and truths and myths for tire weight loss, available throughout Northville including at the Senior Center, Hillside Recreation Center, and the Water Wheel Health Club.

The 30 day calendar of events is available at all the sponsor locations or send your e-mail to waterwheel@tds.net to leave the calendar of events e-mailed directly to you. For more information call Traci Sincsek at (248) 349-0203 or Chris Klebba at (248) 449-7634.

Healthcare upgrades

The state of Michigan took a step in upgrading its home healthcare system by proposing

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increased funding to ensure seniors and persons with disabilities can get quality care in their own homes.

The budget proposal by the Granholm administration included \$20 million to raise wages for home health care workers—a move to help stabilize the current 35 percent turnover rate among caregivers. This turnover leaves seniors and those with disabilities at risk of going without care or being forced into more costly institutions.

The wage increases mark the first step toward implementing one of the recommendations of Michigan's Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force. Their report, issued last May, highlighted the need to pay caregivers better wages.

The Michigan Quality Home Care Campaign is urging Michigan lawmakers to support the proposed funding increase and protect citizens' rights to stay in their own homes and receive support. The MQHCC is a statewide coalition of more than 40 seniors and disability rights groups, religious leaders, civic organizations and others.

Compiled by Tracy Mielner

Heart of the Lakes Gala slated at Shenandoah Country Club

Event benefits two groups

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Looking for a fun night out with all the benefits from Super Bowl XL now over?

Come out and feel like a star at "Hollywood Nights," the 4th Annual Heart of the Lakes Gala. The event, presented by the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce in Walled Lake, benefits the chamber and the Cardiac Care Program at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township.

The Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has served Commerce Township, Union Lake, Walled Lake, Waterford, White Lake, Wixom and Wolverine Lakes since 1963.

Screaming fans and paparazzi will greet guests arriving on the red carpet for the fund-raiser, which will take place at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, at Shenandoah Golf, Hamquet and Country Club in West Bloomfield.

Lila Lazarus, former WDIV-TV Channel 4 health reporter who will join WJBK FOX2 in Detroit, will serve as master of ceremonies for the event again. Lazarus is also a member of the Board of Directors of Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital.

Guests can enjoy dinner and dancing to music by the Little Darlin's. Event sponsors will be highlighted in a Hollywood-style production performed by dancers from Dance Dynamics Performing Arts Academy in Walled Lake.

A drawing that night will determine the "Star of the Lakes Area," who will be lavished with awards befitting a Hollywood icon. The event will also feature a silent auction and contests with prizes.

In previous years, the event has allowed Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital to purchase state-of-the-art biphasic defibrillators, exercise equipment for the cardiac rehabilitation program and diagnostic equipment such as the Marquette Universal System of Electrocardiography (MUSE).

In 2003, the event raised \$22,000, and 125 businesses provided silent auction items.

In 2004, the fund-raiser collect-



Courtesy photo

Jay Kozlowski, M.D., Cardiology Medical Director at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital in Commerce Township, with patient Kathy Weir of Waterford. The hospital's Cardiac Care Program will receive half the proceeds of the March 11 Heart of the Lakes Gala fund-raiser at Shenandoah Country Club in West Bloomfield.

ed \$33,248, and the number of participating businesses jumped to 165.

Last year, attendees donated \$42,516 with 350 attending and 166 businesses donating more than 275 items.

Organizers hope to sell more than 400 tickets to this year's event and raise \$50,000. Proceeds from the gala are evenly divided between the chamber and the hospital's cardiac program.

"Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital is growing by leaps and bounds," said Mark Steinberg, chairman of the event.

"That whole area is growing. They're getting a lot of new patients, and the hospital is expanding significantly. This fund-raiser is a way for us to give back to the hospital and the community."

Steinberg added that attendees are welcome to dress up like their favorite movie star or come in formal, black-tie attire.

"We're committed to raising money for the hospital and the chamber and have fun doing it," he said. "We're focusing on fun."

How to get tickets

Cost for the 4th Annual Heart of the Lakes Gala is \$50 per person.

Reservations can be made by calling the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce at (248) 624-2826 or on the chamber's Web site at www.LakesAreaChamber.com.

Deadline for reservations is Thursday, March 2.

Making reservations early is suggested since the event was a sellout last year.

Hospital officials hope to purchase a new cardiac stress testing system with funding from this year's fund-raiser.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the *Now! News*. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@comcast.com.

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HEALTH

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novine.com fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi and Northville residents get ready to 'Relay For Life'

Kickoff for emotional fund-raiser races forward

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Marianne Simanek doesn't mind telling her story as long as it means she's helping others. Diagnosed four years ago with ovarian cancer, the 59-year-old Novi resident said dealing with cancer was hard because her only thoughts were how to get her family through it. "I wanted them to see me as the caregiver and strong person," Simanek said. "I was shocked. How could I tell (my family) that everything was going to be OK?" "I wanted my family to go in facing this with all the confidence in the world... we're going to get through this."

Simanek, a registered nurse at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, underwent surgery to remove her ovaries and appendix, and doctors were able to remove all signs of cancer. "I was lucky because I never had to go through chemotherapy or radiation," she said. "I've been clear for about three years. As long as I go in for my blood test each year, I'll be fine."

Simanek said joining the Relay For Life was a way to share her story and help others. Relay For Life is a 24-hour team-based fund-raiser that supports the American Cancer Society. Money raised during the fund-raiser goes toward cancer research, programs and services

for cancer patients and their caregivers.

More than a walk

Relay For Life is more than a walk around a track.

"It's a time to remember those lost to cancer and celebrate those who have survived," said American Cancer Society officials. "It's a night for people who have shared the same experiences to comfort and console one another."

The kickoff for the fifth annual Northville-Novi Relay For Life is from 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Northville Senior Community Center.

Barb Irwin said the kickoff is an opportunity to introduce and reintroduce the relay to the community.

Irwin, community development director for the American Cancer Society, said there will be over 4,500 events across the nation this year and 42 will be held in several communities surrounding metro Detroit.

"If you have someone going through this terrible illness or have lost someone," Irwin said, "Relay For Life really gives you a way to be proactive."

According to the American Cancer Society, about 570,280 Americans are expected to lose the battle with cancer this year. "We lose so many people each year to the battle," Irwin said. "The relay is such a great way to raise awareness and to educate people."

Life's struggle

Laura Steiner only worries about her children. With technology rapidly improving each day, the 45-year-old Northville Township resident

Novi-Northville Relay For Life
Kickoff: 6-7:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Northville Senior Community Center.
Relay For Life: 10 a.m.-10 a.m. May 20-21 at Ford Field, Northville.
Cost: Free of charge
Web site: www.aacr.org/relayforlife
Contact: (800) ACS-2345

said she hoped there was a cure for cancer by the time her kids, Michelle, 15, Lowell, 18, and Robert, 20, had to really worry about it.

Watching both of her parents survive several bouts with disease, Steiner said knowing her family history can be scary.

"I've seen my dad and his mother or go through breast cancer," she said. "He also had prostate cancer — then my mother had eye cancer, a spot on her lung, and now a spot on her spine."

Steiner and her family joined the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life in 2000 to show support for her family and community.

Simanek said having gone through life's challenges herself helps her understand what other people are going through and what their families are feeling.

"I can say 'I know how you feel' and they believe me, because I really have been there. I can show them my scar," Simanek said. "We're walking for that one."

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

ASK CHRIS KLEBBA

Editor's note: Ask Chris Klebba is a new health feature where readers can send their questions about weight loss, exercise and nutrition to Chris Klebba, owner and operator of the Water Wheel Health Club in Northville. Klebba will choose one question to answer in the Novi News on a regular basis.

WEIGHT LOSS MYTH: Eating after 8 p.m. will result in weight gain.

NO! In fact, have your last meal in bed if you want. You just don't consume more calories than you burn for the day.

By the way, a day is 24 hours, so who cares when you eat your calories?

The body does not have an enzyme with a watch that after 7 p.m. preferentially stores items, especially carbohydrate, as fat.

All of us have a certain number of calories we can consume without gaining weight.

If you happen to change your daily schedule and end up eating a final meal or snack later in the evening without changing your calories, you are in no danger of accumulating weight as a result of that minor alteration.

Ideally, however, you would spread your allotted number of calories throughout the day to prevent hunger and prevent wild fluctuations in blood sugar levels, which can sap your energy levels.

I am a woman over 40. How do I get long, lean muscles? I heard weight training makes you bulky. Is this true?

One of the most persistent myths among women when it comes to strength training is that working with weights will turn them into female hulk. Many women chase trendy programs and plans that they think will effect their long, lean muscles versus the bulky muscles that more traditional strength training

creates. Mountains of valid research supports that nothing could be further from the truth!

Most women begin to lose bone density and lean muscle mass at about age 40 and in part because of this, they start to slow down; and because they slow down, they lose more lean muscle mass and the downward cycle of change continues.

Women who include a proper strength training program a couple of times a week change too, but in the opposite direction.

After as little as 12 weeks your body can begin to be more youthful and firmer; bone density can actually begin to stabilize or increase and you will realize an entire list of potential physical and emotional benefits all leading to a quality, active lifestyle.

Women do not have the ability to gain muscle size like men. Resistance training can be done at home or a gym using bands, and simple dumbbells. Your muscles will develop along a pre-determined genetic path, so don't get confused over what will develop your muscles longer, or different.

The bottom line is that a healthy lifestyle for women should include strength training a couple of days per week. Try it and watch your body wake up!

Is Body Mass Index (BMI) a good indicator of a healthy weight?

BMI indicates your health risks by comparing your height and weight. Males with a BMI above 27.3 and women over 27.3 are considered overweight.

Males with a BMI less than 20.7 and women below 19.1 are classified as underweight.

BMI is a tool that can help determine health risks, like any tool it has limitations so it's important to realize that it is only an estimation of body fat.

People who have valid reasons for maintaining weight outside of normal ranges (pregnant or breast feeding women, competitive athletes, body builders and people who are chronically ill) may experience inaccurate BMI values.

People with a high percentage of muscle mass may appear overweight using BMI because muscle is more dense than fat. Anyone can log onto our affiliate web site www.yepet.com and click on fitness tools to calculate your BMI.

Bottom line — there is not one tool that can conclusively indicate one's overall health risks. Discover your BMI and utilize this tool for evaluating your health risks and more importantly where you can improve those risks.

This column was written by Chris Klebba, Chris owns and operates the Water Wheel Health Club in Northville, and is a certified fitness trainer, regular columnist and public speaker. For more information call 248-449-7634 or go to www.waterwheel.com.



Chris Klebba

Discovering Franklin Road Christian



Franklin Road Christian School student Kim Toth takes notes in an algebra class.

Open house a big success

Prayer, word of mouth make K-12 school's event "best yet"

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Kathy Ramos believes the Franklin Road Christian School open house last Tuesday was the facility's best ever.

"We do two open houses per year, one in February and one in November," said Ramos, elementary secretary and open house coordinator. "Our winter open house is great timing because we have open enrollment to the public starting Feb. 1."

About 40 families and 60 students attended from Novi, as well as many other surrounding areas, to check out the building and to decide if they would like to make Franklin Road their school.

Guests were treated to packets, pamphlets and poster boards, all filled with information about the school's curriculum. They filled out a few forms and took a tour of the facility. Then, administration took time to answer any questions they had over refreshments.

After five years in their current building, the school administration has held many open houses, but Ramos believes this last one was so successful for two reasons.

"I prayed about it," she said. "I gave it to the Lord and said, 'whoever you want coming to this open house, I'll pray for them.'"

Also, Ramos says people are really beginning to take notice of the school. "The community is starting to hear about us more and word is spreading," she said. "Things are really happening here."

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 khuri@gannett.com.

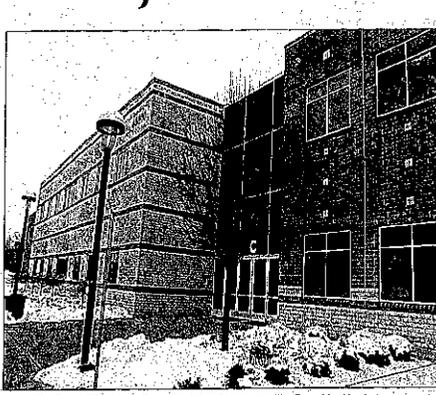
— Photos by —

JOHN HEIDER

Suh Lin Kang jots down some information at Franklin Road Christian School as her daughter Sarah, 6, waits. The pair were at the school last Tuesday during its open house activities. Prospective parents and pupils toured the K-12 Christian school and got to peek in its classrooms, labs, chapel, gymnasium and hallways.



Franklin Road kindergarten teacher Judy Robertson gathers up her charges as they head off to recess.



Franklin Road Christian School at 40800 W. 13 Mile Rd. in Novi.



An art teacher Diane Ledesma, far left, points out some school projects to prospective parents and pupils tour Franklin Road Christian School last Tuesday afternoon.



Franklin Road Christian School kindergartners run through the school's gymnasium during recess.

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EDUCATION

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 cstone@ghnet.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9332

90 participants needed to offer Drivers Ed

District needs to break even on program or it will soon be discontinued

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The fate of drivers education in the Novi Community School District lies with 90 students.

The district's board of education approved a program for the 2005-06 school year which recommended if participation in the program does not meet the district's expectation of 100 students, and if the state continues not to fund the program, it would be discontinued.

Last year's participation was 61 after a survey was taken at the high school indicating the required participation. There was no state funding, and the district incurred a loss of \$9,100.

"If we don't get 90 students signed up, we won't offer the program this summer," said Peter Dion, district superintendent. "It's

going to be \$335 per student, and because we don't get reimbursed from the state, we're going to offer it only if we break even financially."

The difference between this year and last year, according to Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent of instructional services, is the district will ask students to commit by paying up front.

"That's so we know for sure they plan on taking it," said Davis. "Last year we had students say they were going to do it, but when it came down to signing up and paying, they didn't."

Last year's low participation

was due in part to the schedule which went beyond July 4. This year's schedule would conclude on June 30.

To determine the number of participants for the 2006-07 year, registration would begin in March and conclude on May 15. At that point, the number of participants and the financial obligations would be known.

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@ghnet.com.

What are other districts doing?

A survey of the surrounding districts indicates the following:

District	Program offered in 2006-07	Fee
• Northville	Undecided	\$330 per student in 2005-06
• Farmington	No	n/a
• Livonia	No	n/a
• Walled Lake	No	n/a
• Plymouth	No	n/a
• Huron Valley	Yes	\$550 per student
• South Lyon	Undecided	\$330 per student in 2005-06

Survival tactics

Gary Hurst's, Marianne Malarkey's and Jennifer Johnson's team was the last group of fifth graders to go to the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center for fifth grade camp this year. In survival class (pictured), the students had the chance to see how to start a fire using flint and steel, as well as being taught other survival techniques. Pictured are (from left) Takumi Wakabayashi, Brian Bonnell, Larry Rubel, Alyssa Ward, Abby Torossian and Patrick Carney.



Educational trips to locales other than U.S. and Canada to be OK'd

Board will still have final say on trip destinations

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Nancy Davis will be requesting a student trip be approved to Mexico at the March 2 school board meeting.

Such a request would have been out of the question a year ago, but due to a school board policy amendment, it might just happen.

In 2001, board policy allowed student-sponsored educational trips anywhere outside the United States.

After 9/11, and the resulting instability and security concerns around the world, the board amended that policy, and only allowed school sponsored trips within the United States and

Canada.

"The amendment allows for student educational trips anywhere," said Peter Dion, district superintendent. "It's opening up worldwide."

Davis said the amendment leaves full discretion to the board to approve every field trip on a case-by-case basis.

"The board will assess the situation and make decisions on whether it's a safe place to go or not," said Davis.

Each year administration receives requests from various student groups to travel to Mexico and other parts of the world.

The board is expected to make the amendment on March 2 to allow such trips. The policy does not place any geographical limits on travel.

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@ghnet.com.

Board election May 2

Only two run for lone seat

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

This year's Novi school board election will look a lot different than last year's.

After six candidates ran for two seats in a heated competition, only two are running this year, including incumbent George Kortlandt.

Kortlandt's opponent is Katie Reoon, a school board election veteran who has run for at least two years in a row.

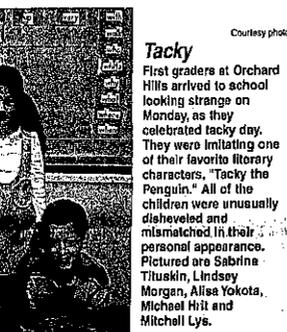
The deadline for candidates to run in their petitions was Feb. 7, and the withdrawal deadline was last Friday. The election is May 2.

The only seat open is for a four-year term, which begins July 1 this year and ends June 30, 2010.

Kortlandt has been on the board for 12 years.

Tacky

First graders at Orchard Hills arrived at school looking strange on Monday, as they celebrated tacky day. They were imitating one of their favorite literary characters, Tacky the Penguin. All of the children were unusually disheveled and mismatched in their personal appearance. Pictured are Sabrina Tituskin, Lindsay Morgan, Alisa Yokota, Michael Hill and Mitchell Lys.



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Chinese to be offered at Novi High

School board approved new language class last week

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

As principal of Novi High, John Lawrence believes his school provides as many educational opportunities as possible.

That's why he's excited to announce the Chinese language will be offered to students starting next school year.

"The board did approve it unanimously," said Peter Dion, district superintendent. "As China grows, and economically it becomes a larger world force, it's imperative we offer our students exposure to the cultural, social and political, and the linguistic of the predominant language in China."

More attention is being given to students in international relationships with countries like China, India and Japan as the world becomes a more global business environment.

In the fall, only four high schools of 32 similar to Novi High in size and demographics surveyed currently offer

Chinese language studies: Birmingham, Southeast, Bloomfield Hills, Livonia and Troy High School.

"This item was turned into an action item because we wanted to get it into the catalog to make sure kids know about it in time for the enrollment registration process," said Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent of instructional services.

Lawrence explained the high school schedules classes based on how students sign up for them. Even though a class may be offered, it doesn't mean it's going to run unless there is enough interest.

"We have had indication the students have expressed an inter-

est in taking Chinese," said Lawrence. "The idea came to us before that though, because rather than students indicating the need for it, it was more of a recognition of the importance of the Chinese language in high school."

Lawrence said China is a part of the world where more manufacturing and business is heading. The high school felt it was necessary to offer the Chinese language to students, especially ones who are going into business.

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@ghnet.com.



Our favorites

Novi Meadows Elementary School got into the spirit of the Super Bowl by having a "Favorite Sports Team" event Friday prior to the Big Game. The kids wore hats, jerseys and shirts from their favorite sports teams. Pictured here are (back row from left): Jack Gibson, Brooke Olander, Tallon Ora, Angelica Monroe, Cae Dunbar-Gaynor, Julia Paholak and Angelo Cinco. (Front row from left): Eddie Roney, Paul Nadjarian, Curtis Park, Carl Faraon, Michael Metz and Pete Colmery.

Goin' batty

Deerfield Elementary students learned about the bats of the world recently, as the Organization for Bat Conservation of Cranbrook Institute of Science came visiting. The kids learned how important bats are to the environment because they eat insects, pollinate flowers and even help fruit trees grow in the rain forests of South America. The representatives helped dispel myths of the vampire bat and encouraged the students to share their learnings with others to help ensure the conservation of bats. The students were able to view a variety of live bats during the program. Here, some of the kids are amazed to see a bat up close and personal.

New strings program introduced at Meadows in fall

Plan is to expand to middle and high schools later

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The final step in introducing a strings program to Novi Meadows Elementary School will be taken Thursday, March 2.

The board of education will see the topic on its action items list for approval. Barring any drastic change in philosophy, it's expected to be a go.

"We're going to move forward with recruiting students to enroll in the first-ever elementary strings program in Novi," said Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent of instructional services.

"We're going to expand into Novi Middle School in 2007-08 and into Novi High School in 2009-10.

Funds for the strings program have been set aside from the revenue the district received through the rental of Novi High School to Oak Pointe Church.

Exact student numbers will be known in May after the recruitment process is completed for

Novi Meadows.

Future costs will be factored into each school year budget according to district budgeting procedures.

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@ghnet.com.

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Celebrating triple digits

A century old and still going strong

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Jean Mack believes hard work is the key to a long life. Among several Novi residents counting to join the century club, Mack said she is grateful to have recently celebrated her 100th birthday Feb. 4.

"There are a lot of differences now from when I was young," said the Manor of Novi resident. "I was the first car — those were the horse and buggy days."

Mack said working at General Motors for 25 years and raising three children kept her busy. "I have no idea why I've lived so long," she said. "I guess God was just on my side."

Helen Mikoloff said although there is only a small percentage of the population over 100 today, she believes there will be even more in the future.

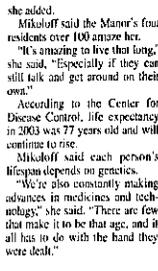
"Back many years ago, people died in their 60s or 70s," said the director of nursing for the Manor of Novi. "In years to come, I think the lifespan will lengthen more like by 10."

"Now, 80 isn't so old anymore," she added.

Mikoloff said the Manor's four residents over 100 amaze her. "It's amazing to live that long," she said. "Especially if they can still talk and get around on their own."

According to the Center for Disease Control, life expectancy in 2003 was 77 years old and will continue to rise.

Mikoloff said each person's lifespan depends on genetics. "We're also constantly making advances in medicines and technology," she said. "There are few that make it to that age, and it all has to do with the hand they were dealt."



Whitehall resident Helen Mikoloff turned a 100 a week ago.

Still going strong

Marianne Schmidt said her mother, Rosalyn Michaels, 102, jokes about living as long as she has.

"Her sister lived to be 103," Schmidt said. "My mom was still driving in her late 90s, but eventually we had to take the keys away from her."

Kim Vagnetti, admissions director from Whitehall of Novi, said the quality of care elders receive has a lot to do with how long they live.

Vagnetti said they recently celebrated Whitehall resident Helen Burnston's 100th birthday.

"She lived on a farm for the better part of her life," Vagnetti said. "The way she ate probably had a lot to do with it."

According to Vagnetti, Burnston received a plaque and letter from Gov. Jennifer Granholm congratulating her on reaching 100.

Mary McShea said she made a bet with friends while working as a truck driver for 48 years, to see who would live to see 100.

"I guess I won," said the 101-year-old Manor of Novi resident.

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Manor of Novi members of the century club include Martin McShea, 101, Jean Mack, 100, and Rachel Thoma, 103, right.

Although no one can predict how long they will live, McShea said he's knows he'll be around for a few more years.

"I asked the good Lord to let me go at 104," McShea said. "I told my

doctor that and he said, "What do you mean 104? If I had your heart, I would have asked for 110."

McShea said the secret to a long life is simple.

"I made it with love, prayer and

good whiskey," he said.

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

NOVI SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 2/17	Wednesday 2/22
8:45 a.m. - Patient Bread	9 a.m. - Stretch and Strength
9 a.m. - Stretch and Strength	10 a.m. - Body Recall
9 a.m. - Body Recall	10:30 a.m. - Quilting
11 a.m. - Lunch	11 a.m. - Blood Pressure
12:30 p.m. - Dupli. Bridge*	11 a.m. - Taking Oil Friends Sensibly class
1:30 p.m. - Bingo	11:30 p.m. - Chopping*
2:20 p.m. - Message	12:30 p.m. - Lunch
	2:20 p.m. - Message
Monday 2/20	Thursday 2/23
Senior Center Civic Center, Lunch Service/Transportation closed for Presidents' Day	
Tuesday 2/21	
8:30 a.m. - Patient Bread	9 a.m. - Line Dance*
9 a.m. - Line Dance	9 a.m. - Medicare Assistance by appointment
10 a.m. - Askin Pacific	10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Income Taxes by appointment
10:30-11:30 a.m. - Bookmobile	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Computer Lab open noon
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Computer Lab open	12:15 - Contract Bridge*
Lunch	1:2 p.m. - Line Dance
12:45 p.m. - Message	2:2-3:00 p.m. - Message

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-0414.

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PEOPLE

Col Stone, editor (248) 349-1700 ext 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9832

BANNER



Bakowski-Steinhilber

Robert and Irene Bakowski of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Marie Bakowski to Jason Thomas Steinhilber, son of Thomas and Patricia Steinhilber of Novi.

The bride-elect is a 1999 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School and a 2004 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is currently employed at DFCU Financial as a Member Relations Representative.

The groom-elect is a 1999 graduate of Novi High School, a 2003 graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and is currently attending the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, receiving his JD this spring, 2006. He is a Planner for Washtenaw Area Transportation.

A July 2006 wedding is planned.



Stating-Raschke

Kathleen and Richard Stating of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Kate Stating to Matthew Alan Raschke, son of Debra and Robert Raschke of Dearborn.

The bride-elect is a 1999 graduate of Novi High School and a 2003 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is employed by Quicken Loans as a Senior Mortgage Banker.

The groom-elect is a 1998 graduate of East Ford High School and a 2003 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He earned a masters degree from Wayne State University. He is a Planner for Washtenaw Area Transportation.

A July 2006 wedding is planned.

IN THE SERVICE

Army Pvt. Jacob J. Whitrow has graduated from basic combat military training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the eight weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction in drill and ceremonies, rifle marksmanship, weapons, map reading, tactics, armed and unarmed combat, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, Army history, core values and traditions, and special training in human relations.

He is the son of Denise Whitrow of Walked Lake.



Courtesy photo

Healthy badge

Troop 1411 from Novi Woods received a tour from Dan (in the back) at the Better Health Food Store in Novi. He helped the Brownie Troop obtain their Evening Healthy Badge. Pictured left to right are: Alexia Malecki, Mary Grace Sinkovitch, Joyce Cucksey, Sara Jaxek, Jessic Lyпка, Kira Hurley and Madelon Ampan.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Comcast has announced Virginia Goble, of Novi, has been named as vice president, New Products, of the company's Midwest Division.

In this role, Goble is responsible for overseeing new products marketing throughout the Midwest Division, providing strategic direction for driving sales of Comcast High-Speed Internet and Comcast Digital Voice.

Before joining Comcast, Goble was representative of Virginia Goble State Farm Insurance Agency. Prior to that, she served as an adjunct professor of marketing at the University of Michigan, Dearborn.

Overall, Goble has more than 16 years of marketing experience in the telecommunications industries at Verizon Wireless, AirTouch Cellular and Cellular One. She possesses a master's in business administration, marketing, from DePaul University.

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, March 8, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.204, REQUESTED BY EUGENE & REGINA NEUGEBOER, 600 MATTHEW C. QUINN, FOR RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL TO REZONE TO TOWN CENTER DISTRICT, IN SECTION 15, ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 6, THENCE 57°11'00"E, 221.53 feet; thence N19°27'00"E, 294.49 feet; thence N78°03'00"W along the North line of said Lot 6 to the Northwest (or corner); thence S65°57'00"W, 274.90 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.575 acres.

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 P.M., Wednesday, March 8, 2006.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY

(2-16-06 NN 267956)

FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Pulse Homes is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a construction trailer at 28430 Whetstone Lot 297. This permit is to be issued from the date of the meeting on February 24, 2007.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the meeting on Friday, February 24, 2006. The request is at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 24, 2006. 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 U. Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.

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

(2-16-06 NN 267726)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 06-45.29

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 06-45.29 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPENDIX C OF THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE NO. 77-45, THE CITY OF NOVI SUBDIVISION ORDINANCES AS AMENDED TO COMPLY WITH RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE MICHIGAN LAND DIVISION ACT.

The provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, February 6, 2006. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., preceding local time.

(2-16-06 NN 267727) MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WROBEL, SECRETARY

(2-16-06 NN 267956)

FAITH

Col Stone, editor (248) 349-1700 ext 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax (248) 349-9832

Church's third new ministry helping many

Stephen Ministers pick up where pastor leaves off

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Pastor Richard Henderson has no problem visiting and helping folks in need.

But he can't do long-term and expect to keep up with everybody. That's when Stephen Ministers step in to help.

The Stephen Ministry is the third of three fairly new ministries to the Faith Community Presbyterian Church. It's a multi-denominational ministry of caring.

The church has three commissioned Stephen Ministers who are working with "care receivers."

The ministers visit through 50 hours of training to learn how to help care for people, who are struggling. They're an extension of the ordained minister, in this case, Henderson.

Once Henderson visits through the initial trauma, the Stephen Ministers take over for the long-haul.

"There could be many issues they help people with," said Jann Martin, director of family ministry. "It could be the death of a loved one, the loss of a job, or a serious illness. It could even be something like planning a wedding."

Stephen Ministers are always paired by gender. The most important aspect of their training is learning to listen, though they shouldn't be misinterpreted as trained therapists or doctors.

Martin, Pastor Henderson and Betty Nick, the church's other Stephen Leader, seek people by listening to prayers on Sunday mornings to see if anyone might be struggling with an issue. If so, a Stephen Minister will be assigned to them.

"Usually they visit once a week," said Martin. "We have three Stephen Ministers right



Jann Martin, Faith Community Presbyterian Church director of family ministry, works as a Stephen Minister to help this "care receiver" through a problem. The church's Stephen Ministry is a confidential, multi-denominational ministry of caring.

now, and I have a new class starting at the end of February where four more will be trained, including two men."

Nick and Martin went through the training last June to be Stephen Leaders. They started training the church's three, commissioned Stephen Ministers last fall.

"There are many churches throughout the area that are a part of this ministry," said Martin, who was first trained as a Stephen Minister in 1987. "It's actually intentional."

"It's a wonderful ministry," she added. "It's very supportive, and one of the key elements in it is confidentiality. It's been received wonderfully."

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.

The Stephen Ministry is the third of three fairly new ministries to the Faith Community Presbyterian Church. It's a multi-denominational ministry of caring.

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-004

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Singh Homes Building Company, LLC is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a sales trailer at 24320 Cavendish Avenue East (lot 6) - Church Hill Crossing Subdivision, from February 24, 2006 through February 24, 2007.

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

This request will be considered at 10:15 a.m. on February 24, 2006 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to Sarah Marchioni and must be received prior to February 24, 2006.

SARAH MARCHIONI
BUILDING PERMIT COORDINATOR
(248) 347-0415

(2-16-06 NN 267891)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE NO. 06-18.200

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 06-18.200, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 97-18, AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE 22, GENERAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 2585, OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS, TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LANDBANKING OF PARKING SPACES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, February 6, 2006, and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its adoption. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., preceding local time.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

(2-16-06 NN 267728)

OPINION

www.novnews.com

Novi News

Cal Stone
EDITOR

Grace Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Periborg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Richard Ramholt
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

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.

WHERE WE STAND

Deerfield, etc.: Decisions made; move forward

The citizens of Novi voted for the seven members of the Novi School Board of Education. Now those same citizens, which includes parents of students in all five of the elementary schools — need to accept the board's recent decision and move on.

To redistrict and convert Deerfield Elementary to a "neighborhood school" are not moves that are popular with everyone. Decisions of this magnitude rarely are universally acceptable. But the key to maintaining Novi schools' excellence will come from those who appear to be the most affected by these decisions — parents.

The students will enjoy a first-class education regardless of which elementary they attend. Truth is, there are no good, bad or better schools in this district. They're all exceptional.

The school board made decisions which it felt were in the best interest of the community. Yes, the issues deserved much thought and debate, which they received. Now it's time to work positively toward implementing those changes.

Those who think their changes would be better have the opportunity to present their ideas to the public and run for a position on the school board. But on the May 2 ballot, you'll see that only two people — incumbent George Kortlandt and Katie Rason — have decided it's worth the incredible time and effort necessary to serve

Chamber's annual event powerful and worthwhile

About a year ago, after having surgery, I was struggling with my weight. Based on past experiences, I expected to lose weight. For some reason, I gained. About 25 pounds, to be exact.

Nothing was fitting anymore. I had one suit that I could wear and a pair of tight Dockers slacks.

Then I started losing weight. About 40 pounds, to be exact. No reason why, at least that I can identify. Now, all my clothes are baggy. Jeans falling down and suit slacks require using the last notch on my belt.

I'll probably get back to my normal weight soon, but this whole ordeal has caused me to examine my closet, especially business attire, very closely.

And what perfect timing. Next Friday, the Novi Chamber of Commerce is holding its annual Threads of Power breakfast at the Wyndham Garden Hotel.

If you're unfamiliar with this event, it's probably one of my favorite fund-raisers for, in this case, clothes-raisers in this community.

Now in its seventh year, the event gives folks a chance to get rid of "genly-used" business and business casual clothing that they no longer use or need.

This year, as last year, the chamber is seeking men's clothing as well as women's.

The clothing will be turned over to several agencies — Open Door Outreach, Southfield Career Center and Clothes Closet at Holy Family Church — for individuals entering or re-entering the workforce who cannot afford to go out and buy a new business wardrobe.

Think about it. When you're going on a job interview, or say you just landed a job, you want to look professional. You feel better and you perform better.

But running out and buying new outfits isn't always feasible. (Heck, it might not even be feasible after you've had the job for awhile!) Individuals can use the service for interviews and the early stages of a new job — until they can afford to buy business clothes.

I've attended this event the last two years. People who have taken advantage of this program offer testimonials about how it has helped them. It is hard, if not impossible, to listen to their stories and not be touched.

Local businesses realize the value and importance of this event, too. Like Christy Seaberg at Republic Bank, which is the major sponsor for Threads of Power.

The cost is just \$15 (and that includes a wonderful breakfast, and a clothing donation that must be clean and on a hanger. You can even get a tax receipt if you want).

LETTERS

Time to move on

I think it is extremely sad that there was so much anger and frustration concerning the "equality" between our schools. Have we forgotten how fortunate we are that we have some of the best elementary schools — regardless of which of the five it is?

There will always be inadequacies somewhere. No school or program can be truly equal or in some parents words "fair." We tell our children that things aren't always fair but we do have choices. Novi no longer has the choice of Deerfield.

Some of the parents will not support the concept of Deerfield when it becomes their Neighborhood school. I don't think the board took this into consideration, and I don't think the community in support of making Deerfield a neighborhood school did either. Won't this cause more upset in the community?

I think Deerfield was the scapegoat for the underlying problem of overcrowding at some of the schools. It is too bad that something as great for the community as Deerfield was singled out for its difference. It's a shame in itself that we are constantly singling out something "different" just because it is.

Now that the unfortunate decision to include Deerfield in Novi's redistricting has been made, I think I can speak for a lot of parents that we would like to know NOW where our children will be attending school. My daughter is currently a kindergarten at Deerfield as it stands right now, she will not be included in the terms of "grandfathering" that the board voted on last Thursday.

Where does the board's decision leave the children that have already started in school with their friends, teachers and schools? I am not just speaking for the changes at Deerfield. I know that ALL of our kids will be affected by the redistricting whether they stay in their current school or if they move.

I would like the "lines" to be drawn ASAP so that I can send my daughter to whichever school will be her neighborhood school in the 2006-2007 school year. I think we all would like to move on and know where most of our children will carry out their elementary years. It's up to us as parents to create a positive outlook on all this change and not carry a chip on our shoulders if the board's decisions were not what some of us had hoped.

Sarah Synowiec
Novi

Anthem action needed

After having a week or so sit back and reflect on the Super Bowl, several things are quite apparent. The best committee did a bang up job and they deserve all the credit they've been receiving and then some.

Especially Roger Penske. I still think he should be running either C.M. or the Ford Motor Co. But this another story. But as good as everything went there was one problem that stood out like a sore thumb and demands our immediate attention.

We gotta do something about our National Anthem. Anyone who heard that poor soul from New Orleans start out, go a few lines and then need to be "rescued" by Aretha Franklin, must surely agree that we have to take action pronto.

Fortunately I think I have the solution. We have congress stop messing around with the mundane, everyday situations like Iraq's nuclear program, domestic wire tapping (I'm for it when our national security is at stake) and whether or not they can impeach Dick Cheney for not having that quit stamp on his license.

They need to appoint a committee to look into this problem and the sooner the better. I would have Ted Kennedy chair it. (Let's face it, the man never met a committee he didn't love.) There would be two options for them to consider that would right this wrong that has gone on far too long.

Number one would be to create a law that would ban the singing of our anthem at all public functions. It would only be legal to have it played by a band. Not just any old band either but it would have to be a pretty good sized one. One that would have a fair number of horns, drums and etc. and played by people who actually have the skill and training to play them.

Number two, and the one I favor, is we bite the bullet and admit that the people who chose "The Star Spangled Banner" as our anthem all those years ago made a horrible mistake. I say we choose "America The Beautiful" to replace it. Think about it. The words are beautiful and most people can actually sing it without any formal operatic training.

I know there are a few problems that need to be ironed out. After all, it does mention Him Who is in It. But if mentioning Him really offends you, do what I've been doing for years. Just stick your fingers in your ears and imagine this: The New York Philharmonic out there playing.

Elaine Maylen
Novi

Practice what you preach, Mr. Pres.

With the line between church and state growing murkier and Easter approaching, the Bush-ling, we-loving Christians should reexamine The Lord's Prayer. This is the one we have been reciting since adolescence. In particular, the verse "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Forgive those who trespass against us? Did some whiny, naive, liberal have a hand in writing the Lord's Prayer or does George W. Bush and his ilk find it impossible to practice what they preach?

Gregory S. Drallos
Commerce Township

Deerfield's a catalyst for change

Over the past six years, many of the inequities among the elementary schools, real and perceived, have been inappropriately laid at Deerfield's door. It is my opinion that all of our schools would have been better served had our community focused on facts and win-win solutions, instead of letting half-truths and misinformation breed divisiveness.

It was right for the parents from the four traditional elementary schools to question why only Deerfield had full-day kindergarten. Our parents from many of our traditional elementary schools led the fight. However, Deerfield parents and staff supported this fight by urging the school district to give all schools a full-day kindergarten option. Four full-day classes have been added and up to four could be added for 2006-2007.

A Republican scandal

The letter in your Feb. 9 issue by Richard Reising was standard Republican response to dissent. First and foremost, attack and discredit the messenger, which in this case is a right wing newspaper like the Oakland Press that has a history of being soiled section.

However, it is understandable that he would want to blame the Novi News for allowing free and open dissent. Ever hear of freedom of speech or freedom of the press?

Second, bring up old and unrelating issues of our nation all those years ago made a horrible mistake. I say we choose "America The Beautiful" to replace it. Think about it. The words are beautiful and most people can actually sing it without any formal operatic training.

Chuck Tindall
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 to:** (248) 349-9832

How to spend a Super day in Detroit

It was cold Feb. 5. Check that. It was FREEZING Feb. 5.

But it didn't matter because the day ranked up there as one of the greatest I've ever had.

Not the greatest, mind you, but certainly one of the greatest. The greatest was witnessing the Stanley Cup being won by our Red Wings at Joe Louis Arena.

But this was Super Bowl Sunday. After debating through much of January if I should go or sell my ticket, I decided the positives of going outweighed the negatives. Money I could get for it.

Unless, of course, someone offered me \$1 million. I would have had to seriously consider that.

So, I left the house around 11 a.m. and headed to Ross Oak. I parked at the Detroit Zoo, took a shuttle bus down to the corner of Cass and Fort Streets and spent most of the day enjoying the Motown Winter Blast and chatting

with many Pittsburgh Steelers fans before heading to the game at 5 p.m.

By that time, my fingers and nose were numb. But still, it didn't matter.

Now folks, I've been to Florida and California. They're both nice places to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there.

Nope, give me a brick February afternoon in the "D" any time. Call me different, call me weird. That's just me. I thought it was perfect football weather.

And was it ever a perfect day? Dressed in a Super Bowl XL "T" shirt, a black pair of jeans and my "Made in Hockytown" cap, I was surrounded by a sea of black and gold at the game. I had a seat in the Seattle Seahawks end zone, but that didn't seem to sway the Steelers faithful.

Good thing, too, because I wasn't in the minority. I cheered, right along with them. It took a little while for most to figure out I was backing Pittsburgh because of my neutral attire, but when they

know, it was nothing but a party the whole game.

I don't usually root for teams other than the Lions, Tigers, Panthers, Tigers and the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies. But on that day I had to back the Steelers.

Apparently, the referees also felt the same way, which was cool.

What a great way for "The Bus" — Steelers running back Jerome Bettis — to end his game. He was all out and didn't get a yard.

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.

COMMENTARY

Cal Stone editor (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 cstone@gannett.com

Patterson serves up perfect SBT scenario

Patterson serves up perfect SBT scenario for politicians. If there's one person in Michigan politics who can be depended on to raise a rumpus, often at just the right time, it's Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. He did it again — big time — last week in his State of the County speech.

He announced he'd lead a statewide drive to repeal the Single Business Tax, and he's planning to raise \$600,000 in pledges from businesses and individuals to fund a petition drive to put the issue on this November's ballot.

Michigan's main business tax, the SBT, is essentially a tax on payroll. But it is complex, difficult to administer and stands out like a sore thumb in comparison with business taxes in other states. According to state government revenue forecasts for 2006, the SBT yields \$1.8 billion in revenue for the state, representing nearly one quarter of the state's total \$8.2 billion General Fund.

Flourishing his reliably flummoyant rhetoric, Patterson called the SBT "damnable," a "job killer" and a "business killer."

"More than the global economy, the Single Business Tax is killing this state because it is killing jobs in Michigan," he asserted.

He assaulted "our friends in Lansing" for pussyfooting around the fundamental problem of Michigan's arcane tax structure. "They've introduced legislation, which quite frankly nibbles around the edges of meaningful business tax reform. ... We've been arguing about the impact of the Single Business Tax in this state for more than 15 years. The endless debates on this subject have produced more flatulence than a Super

Bowl party at a MSU frat house."

But regardless of the rhetoric, Patterson's move does two things, both very good. First, by threatening to put a radical — and likely popular — tax cut on the ballot, he is forcing both the legislature and Gov. Jennifer Granholm to get serious about a problem that they've been ducking for years.

Second, it puts front and center just what \$1.8 billion from the SBT buys. It's almost exactly the same amount the state spends in total for either all our colleges and universities or the entire corrections system. So if you eliminate the SBT and don't make up the revenue it produces, you have no higher education system or no jails and prisons.

Patterson's speech also sets up a magnificently sensible scenario for a way out of this morass. He hints at a way in which Michigan can simultaneously reform its out-of-date tax system and begin to resolve the chronic billion-dollar-plus structural state budget deficit.

At the same time, we could undo the damage to our economic future that's been caused by \$300 million in cuts to our universities over the past five years. Here's how it could work:

The legislature passes a bill repealing the SBT, which is signed by the governor. Contained in the bill is a requirement that the \$1.8 billion in lost revenue be replaced either by an increase in the state income tax or a reduction in the rate of the state sales tax, which would then be expanded to apply to both goods and services.

Voters statewide will be presented with a choice between these two on the November ballot. And the legislation contains an earmark allocating a spec-

ified percentage of the new revenue stream to our state's colleges and universities.

Business would love it. Politicians who want to be anti-tax would love it, especially since selecting which device to make up the lost revenue would be put in the hands of the people. Colleges and universities (and their students and their families, who have been forced to make up for legislative cuts in state support by increased tuition payments) would be thrilled.

Most importantly, anybody who knows anything about economic development would love it, as it is plain that our economic future absolutely depends on the ability of our higher education system to help us toward a knowledge-based economy.

I asked Tom Clay, the respected research director of the Michigan Citizens' Research Council, how the numbers worked. He estimates a 5 percent sales tax (down from the present 6 percent rate) levied on most services — excepting health care — would come close to making up the loss in income from the SBT.

When I presented this scenario to Patterson, he jumped at the idea. "To get the legislature and the governor to act saves me a long season of hard sloggin'," he told me. "Broadening the sales tax while reducing the rate seems fair, and earmarking part of the revenue stream for higher education strengthens just the things in Michigan that will drive our future economic growth."

OK, Gov. Granholm. OK, legislators. Brooks Patterson has led it up for you. Do you have the guts to do the right thing at the right time? Or will you whiff and fail us, yet again? It's your choice.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@netnet.com.

New "MPVA One Step" column will give readers a look at what life could be like

There are things that happen to us in life that hardly take more time than the blink of an eye. One of those things can be an injury that leaves a person permanently or partially disabled. None of us wants to think it can happen to us but the fact is we are all just one step

from a crippling injury that can come from falling down stairs, attempting a rigorous exercise, even dancing the cha-cha with a less-abled partner.

It only takes that one step for everything to change forever.

But you know what? We are also, every day, only one step from making our community better for people living with temporary or permanent disabilities. The MPVA One Step column will give you information about taking the one step that can improve the quality of life for others, or for yourself.

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is a resource for people who've taken that one step. Our members are all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or disease

(SCI/D). Some of us were injured during military service; for others, the one step occurred later on in life, through an accident or the diagnosis of a crippling disease. MPVA is a volunteer organization built on our own experiences. We know what it's like to have our lives changed from a crippling injury that can come from falling down stairs, attempting a rigorous exercise, even dancing the cha-cha with a less-abled partner.

It only takes that one step for everything to change forever. But you know what? We are also, every day, only one step from making our community better for people living with temporary or permanent disabilities. The MPVA One Step column will give you information about taking the one step that can improve the quality of life for others, or for yourself.

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) is a resource for people who've taken that one step. Our members are all honorably discharged veterans with spinal cord injury or disease

by the results, take that one step and contact us. Last year over 1,500 Michigan veterans asked for MPVA free assistance in filing or re-filing claims. Our work returned over \$4 million directly to those households.

Veteran or not, if you're a person living with SCI/D we have lots of free information to share with you about best practices in self-care, recreational sports and recovery. Good things that contribute to a good life. You can also learn more about us at www.Michiganpra.org, or visit us at 40550 Grand River here in Novi.

Every day we are one step away from something that can change our lives forever, and sometimes for the better. In the next "MPVA One Step" column you'll find more ideas about people who are ready to take that one step for themselves or for others, because sometimes one step can make all the difference.

Kevin Elya is president of the board of directors of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA). Headquartered in Novi, for more than a decade, MPVA has served Michigan since 1961 as a chapter of the national Paralyzed Veterans of America.

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FREE ADOPTION SEMINAR
www.commonwealthadoption.org
Saturday, February 18 from 12 pm - 2 pm
Novi Public Library
6825 W. 10 Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48177
624 P. O. Box 819880
Be standbys and come!

CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700 ext. 113 calstone@gannett.com www.novi.com fax: (248) 349-8892

EVENTS

Luncheon for Novi Fire Chief Art Lenaghan

DATE: Tuesday
TIME: noon-2 p.m.
LOCATION: Fire Station #1, Grand River Avenue east of Novi Road.
DETAILS: \$10 per person; reservations due today by contacting the Community Relations Office at (248) 735-5628. Gift contributions can also be made by contacting the Community Relations Office.

Borders Express Book Signing

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 25
TIME: 1-3 p.m.
LOCATION: Twelve Oaks Mall, Novi Road, lower level by K.Plensky
DETAILS: Author Mike Brogan will be signing his book "Dead Air."

Daddy-Daughter Princess Ball

DATE: Saturday, Feb. 25
TIME: 4-6 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Hillside Recreation Center, 700 W. Baseline Road, Northville
DETAILS: Tickets are \$20 per person per dance and are available at the recreation center. CONTACT: (248) 349-0203, ext. #1141 or visit www.northvilleparkandrec.org

Multiple Sclerosis Fund-raiser

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 24
TIME: 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., seating times
LOCATION: JLD's Mongolian Barbecue, Market St.
DETAILS: JLD's is hosting this fundraising event for Multiple Sclerosis Longest Day Of Golf. Tickets are \$13.99 per adult and include all you can eat soup, salad and stir-fry. Donations will be accepted separately in designated areas. Reservations required. CONTACT: Jenny Phan of Mongolian Barbecue, (248) 735-1900

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, March 7

TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Art Show

TIME/DATE: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Nov through March 3
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: "A Quest for Hope and Recovery" is a collection of original artwork by local artist and cancer survivor Arlene Evans. The show is free and open to the public.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Democrats of West Oakland County Meeting

DATE: Tuesday
TIME: 6 p.m., supper and social; 7 p.m. meeting
LOCATION: Novi Souvlaki Coney Island, corner of Novi and 14 Mile roads
DETAILS: Julie Harewitz, attorney on the Board of Directors, Sugar Law Center, will speak on "Holding Our Government Accountable for the Lying, Spying and Dying."
CONTACT: (248) 624-7228

American Cancer Society Relay For Life Meeting

DATE: Wednesday
TIME: 6-7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville Senior Center, 303 W. Main St., Northville
DETAILS: This meeting is for residents to learn more about Relay For Life. The Northville-Novi Relay will be May 20-21, Ford Field, Northville.
CONTACT: Barb Iovan, (248) 483-4317

ONE, The Movie

DATE: Thursday, March 2
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: The Uptonian Universiatsi Church of Farmington, 2301 Halsied Rd., Farmington Hills.
DETAILS: There is a \$10 suggested donation and free childcare.
CONTACT: (248) 478-7272

City of Westland Beach Party

DATE: Friday, March 10
TIME: 8 p.m.-midnight
LOCATION: Westland

Community Center, 49045 Pontiac Trail, Wyom
DETAILS: Tickets are \$15 per person, adults only and include a buffet dinner, DJ and cash bar. Meet your friends in paradise and chase away the winter blues to the tunes of Jimmy Buffet. No bare feet allowed-Flip flops a must. Pre-registration required.
CONTACT: Mist (248) 624-2850 or online www.city-of-wyom.com

Walsh College Gala

DATE: Friday, March 10
TIME: 6 p.m., VIP reception and silent auction; 7:30 p.m. dinner
LOCATION: Hotel Baranette, 27790 Novi Road
DETAILS: The event features a VIP reception, silent auction, wine-tasting, and strolling dinner. Proceeds will benefit the Walsh College scholarship program and an endowment for the arts. VIP tickets are \$150; general admission tickets are \$75.
CONTACT: (248) 823-1204

Novi Theaters Auditions

DATE: Monday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 15
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Stage, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Auditions are for "The Wizard of Oz." Ages 7-97 are eligible, audition packets will be available Feb. 13. Performances will be May 18-21.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0400

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

Westland City Council

DATE: Tuesday
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Westland City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail
CONTACT: (248) 624-1557

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 21
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 2

TIME: 3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Meadows Elementary, 23549 Fair Road
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

BUSINESS

Dakland County Business Workshops

TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
CONTACT: (248) 858-0783
CERTIFICATION ORIENTATION Session for Women Business Owners
DATE: Thursday, Feb. 23
DETAILS: This is a workshop for business owners at least 51 percent owned, operated and controlled by women, needing resources to help expand and finance business growth. The fee is \$25 per person, including all materials. Registration required.
How to Start a Business
DATE: March 2
DETAILS: This class is for anyone thinking about going into their entrepreneurial skills, learn how to implement their ideas and receive a list of pitfalls to avoid when starting a business.
How to Write a Business Plan
DATE: Thursday, March 9
DETAILS: This is a workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. The fee is \$40 and includes materials.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Events

CONTACT: (248) 624-2826
Spotlight Luncheon
DATE: Wednesday, Feb. 22
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Kodak Creek Inn, 8635 Cooley Lake Road, Commerce Township
DETAILS: This is an informal networking lunch, includes free soft drinks with meal purchase. Evening at Chi-Town Union Station
DATE: Thursday, Feb. 23
TIME: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: 8275 Cooley Lake Road, Commerce Township
DETAILS: The cost is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children ages 5-18 to see a 1955's "C" scale model railroad display. The display is 5,000 square feet.
2006 Heart of the Lakes Gala
DATE: Saturday, March 11

Women's Empowerment Weekend

TIME/DATE: 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, April 24, and 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25
LOCATION: Sunbelt Enterprises LLC, Marilyn Surtle. The cost is \$150; \$127 if paid before Feb. 28. Class is limited to 20 women.
DETAILS: This is an informal networking lunch, includes free soft drinks with meal purchase. Evening at Chi-Town Union Station
DATE: Thursday, Feb. 23
TIME: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: 8275 Cooley Lake Road, Commerce Township
DETAILS: The cost is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children ages 5-18 to see a 1955's "C" scale model railroad display. The display is 5,000 square feet.
2006 Heart of the Lakes Gala
DATE: Saturday, March 11

Providence Center for the Healing Arts

Colored Pencil Workshop
DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center-Art Studio, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
DETAILS: This is a free class. Artist in Residence
TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m. first and third Thursday of every month
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center-Art Studio, Novi
DETAILS: This is a free class. Artist in Residence
TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m. first and third Thursday of every month
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center-Art Studio, Novi
DETAILS: This is a free class. Artist in Residence

TIME: 6 p.m.-12 a.m.
LOCATION: Shenadoh Country Club, West Bloomfield
DETAILS: "Hollywood Nights" will be the theme. The cost is \$50 per person. Sponsors and donations are welcome for the silent auction. Reservations are required.

CLASSES

Walled Lake Community Education Seminar

DATE: Monday, Feb. 27 and Wednesday, March 1
TIME: 6-10 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Walled Lake Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builder Institute will offer this seminar, "Basement Remodeling." The instructor will explain many facets of basement remodeling including space planning, meeting building codes, insurance, permits, estimating materials as well as the basics of construction. The seminar costs \$99 plus \$10 for textbook and materials payable to teacher. Sponsor's discount is half of the tuition. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, Feb. 23, to Walled Lake Community Education, (248) 956-5000, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Line Dancing

DATE: every Monday and Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive
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.
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

AAFP Tax Assistance Workshop

DATE: Monday
TIME: 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
DETAILS: AAFP volunteers will be at the library to assist taxpayers \$5 and over in preparing their tax returns only. Call the library to make an appointment.

Providence Center for the Healing Arts

Colored Pencil Workshop

TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: The Moms Gifting Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group, for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children, work out of their homes, or work part-time.
CONTACT: dinstallina@globalnet

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Avenue, Suite B124, (Providence Park Medical Center)
DETAILS: This is a seminar for golfers with emphasis on posture, flexibility and strengthening exercises, and prevention of common golf injuries, especially low back pain. The format will include lecture, demonstration, discussion and group participation. Reservations required. The cost is \$50 per person.

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: First and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road
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: Every Wednesday
TIME: 11 a.m. weight-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
LOCATION: Meadowsbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowsbrook Road, Novi
DETAILS: \$20 per annual membership includes handbook; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0414

Health

Oakland Physical Therapy, P.C. Class

DATE: Wednesday, March 15
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Avenue, Suite B124, (Providence Park Medical Center)
DETAILS: This is a seminar for golfers with emphasis on posture, flexibility and strengthening exercises, and prevention of common golf injuries, especially low back pain. The format will include lecture, demonstration, discussion and group participation. Reservations required. The cost is \$50 per person.

Boost Camp Day

DATE: Friday, March 3
TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, 47601 Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: This is a day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools, information and a new perspective on healthier living through wholeness. The cost is \$50 per person.

Yoga Classes

TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday; 5-7 p.m. Wednesday; 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi
DETAILS: The cost is \$10/walk-in; \$65/10-class card; \$70/7-week evening session.

Providence Medical Center Classes

LOCATION: Providence Park, Novi, 47601 Grand River Avenue
CONTACT: (888) 440-7323
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Childbirth Education
DETAILS: Evening or weekend series helping you and your partner get ready for the birth of your baby.
Childbirth Refresher
DETAILS: A one time class to review important information for birth of your baby.
Breastfeeding Preparation
DETAILS: A one time class for mom and her partner helping to provide the best for successful breastfeeding.
Baby Care Basics
DETAILS: A one time class with practical information about how to adjust to life with a baby.
Infant Massage
DETAILS: This two session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.
Yoga Classes
TIME/DATE: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Monday; noon-1:30 p.m. Friday
DETAILS: The cost is \$10/walk-ins or 10 class card for \$80.

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Threads of Power slated for Feb. 24

■ Clean your closet for a worthy cause
The Wyndham Garden is located at 42100 Crescent Boulevard, next to Bally's Total Fitness.
Cost for the breakfast is \$15, plus a clothing donation that is clean and on a hanger.
For the second year, organizers of the event are requesting donations of business attire for women and men.
"The event used to be just to collect women's clothing," said Peggy Hayes, chair, of the Novi Chamber of Commerce board. "But, now we're finding that men need new clothing just as much as they enter or re-enter the workforce."
Nora Champion, Chamber president, coordinates the annual event.
"This year, the clothes will go to:
• Clothes Closet at Holy Family Church in Novi;
• Open Door Outreach Center; and
• Southfield Career Center, which is a Michigan Works! program.
"It makes all of us who work on the program feel so good because the people who

Who's sponsoring event?

Major sponsor of the event is Republic Bank. Christy Seavero, branch sales officer in Northville, is a chamber board member. Other sponsors include Bob Sellers Pontiac GM; St. John's Health-Providence Park Hospital; Twelve Oaks Mall; Onions & Greenhouses, Inc.; FedEx Kinko's; Two Men and a Truck; Telecom Credit Union and National City Bank.

How to register

Deadline for reservations to Threads of Power is Feb. 20. To register, call the Novi Chamber of Commerce at (248) 349-3743.
Tax receipts can be provided if desired.

Receive the clothing really

need it and appreciate it," Hayes said.
"Everyone wants to put their best foot forward when they're finding a new job and having the right clothing is an important part of that," she said.
The clothing will provide women and men in need with suitable clothing for job interviews and for the first few months of work until they can budget for business clothing.
"It is a truly heart-warming event," Champion said. "I know we are helping hundreds of women and men enter or re-enter the workforce and become independent, self-confident employees. The support we receive from the business and residential community is tremendous."
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@gannett.com.

Outdoorama

TIME/DATE: 2-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22; noon-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 23-24; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26
DETAILS: Outdoorama is a family show for everyone who enjoys the outdoors. 300 exhibitors will have hanging and fishing gear, boats, RV's and guided trips with a new retail section. Great Cuts of the World and the Hawk Trough. Admission is \$8 per adult; \$4 for kids; \$20 for a family pass.
CONTACT: (517) 371-1041 or visit www.mnuc.org

Great American Train Show

TIME/DATE: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 4; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, March 5
DETAILS: This is the largest traveling show in the USA. Admission is \$8 for adults; under 12 free.
CONTACT: (702) 252-0334 or visit www.gatss.com

Baby Expo

DATE: Saturday, March 4
Sunday, March 5
TIME: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
DETAILS: This is hosted by "Babies R Us" stores and will include 100 exhibitors with new products, child care and parenting information, children's activities, samples and coupons. There will be children's entertainment, giving away characters for children to meet, and a Huggies baby derby for the title of Detroit's "Sisest crawler." The cost is \$8 for adults and free for grandparents and children under 12. Discount coupons available at "Babies R Us" stores.
CONTACT: 1 (877) 959-BABY(2229)

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals

TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesday
LOCATION: Novi High School, Tall Road
DETAILS: Open to all wind and percussion players.
CONTACT: Brian Koschyna, (248) 348-5135

Send your calendar items to

Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, MI 48167. Fax to (248) 349-5832; or e-mail to cstone@gannett.com.

Fill Out This Award Ballot And You'll Be Registering To Win A GIFT CERTIFICATE To One Of The Award-Winning Restaurants

Name _____
Day Time Phone _____
E-mail Address _____
Date Sent _____

Drop Off Or Mail In Ballot To:
People's Choice Awards - Novi News
104 W. Main St.
Northville, MI 48167

Only one entry per person per week. 18 years or older.
Ballot card stuffing will not be allowed. Partial ballots may be disqualified.

ENTRY BLANK

Hey...Novi

It's Time to Pick Your

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

We Need Your Input On The Best Places To Shop... Best Places To Eat...Best Place For Great Service. This is NOT scientific! It's a fun, readers poll.

Join in on the Balloting!

- ### BEST FOOD OUTLETS
- Best place for coffee/donuts/bagels
 - Best specialty coffee house
 - Best place for breakfast
 - Best Sunday brunch
 - Best deli
 - Best fast food restaurant
 - Best family restaurant
 - Best place for soup
 - Best place for salad
 - Best place for burgers
 - Best place for hot dogs/coneys
 - Best place for subs
 - Best place for desserts
 - Best Italian restaurant
 - Best Asian restaurant
 - Best Mexican restaurant
 - Best place for pizza
 - Best wine selection (store)
 - Best wine selection (restaurant)
 - Best beer selection (store)
 - Best beer selection (restaurant)
 - Best place for romantic dinner
 - Best after-work meeting place
 - Best sports bar
 - Best place for dancing

- ### BEST SERVICE PROVIDERS & RETAIL STORES
- Best bank
 - Best consignment store
 - Best eyecare
 - Best funeral home
 - Best salon
 - Best nail salon
 - Best tanning salon
 - Best jewelry store
 - Best real estate company
 - Best real estate agent
 - Best mortgage provider
 - Best accountant
 - Best auto dealer
 - Best auto service
 - Best oil change shop
 - Best collision shop
 - Best tire store
 - Best veterinary service
 - Best travel agency
 - Best video store
 - Best landscaping business
 - Best health/fitness club
 - Best car wash
 - Best flower shop
 - Best garden center
 - Best dance studio

All Entries Must Be Received By March 7th For A Chance To Win A GIFT CERTIFICATE To An Award Winning Restaurant

Plans to fit your needs.

Plan A: 13-month CD

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Plan B: 4-month CD

4.50% APY

Plan C: 36-month Penalty-Free CD

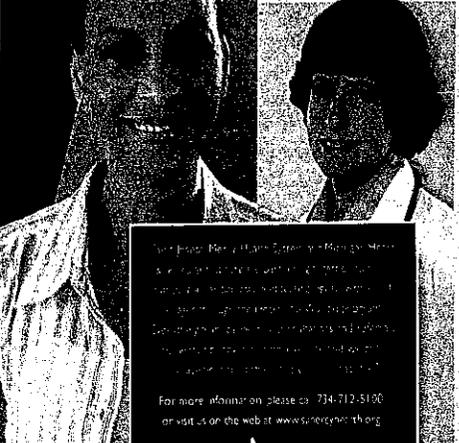
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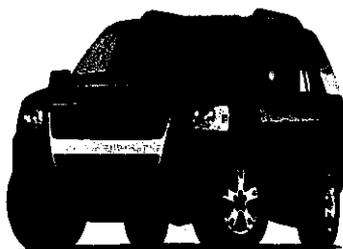
WAIVE YOUR SECURITY DEPOSIT*



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2006 F-150 SC 4x4 XLT

For as low as **\$127** A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Ford Carpet Lease.*

With \$3,095 customer cash due at signing. Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived. Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$2,500 cash back.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2006 Explorer XLT 4x4

For as low as **\$189** A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Ford Carpet Lease.*

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With \$2,570 customer cash due at signing. Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived. Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1000 cash back.



Eligible Ford Employees can Lease a 2006 Escape XLT fwd

For as low as **\$186** A month(1) with a 24 month low mileage Ford Carpet Lease.*

With \$3,095 customer cash due at signing. Includes acquisition fee; security deposit waived. Excludes tax, title and license fee. Cash due is after \$1000 cash back.



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FORD DEALERS**
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TAKE A RIDE IN A FORD...

(1) Not all buyers will qualify for Ford Credit Fleet Carpet Lease. Payments may vary. All payment examples are for Current Ford Employee and eligible family member Lessees. Residency restrictions apply. * First payment up to \$500.00 and security deposit waived. For special lease terms, FICO Cash and FMCC bonus cash, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 2/28/2006. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. See dealer for complete details. Customers must insure through Ford Credit.

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The Wright stuff

Novi's Nick Wright gives his all in everything he does, especially in the pool when he's swimming for the Novi Wildcats swimming team. — Page 3B



Part of the team

Novi News intern Courtney Radzowik looks at what it takes to be an assistant with the Novi Wildcats and why it's a special position for one Novi student. — Page 4B



NOVI NEWS B1

SPORTS



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcat Caleb Dean has high hopes for his basketball career.

The air up there

Novi's 6-foot-8 sophomore Caleb Dean has lofty goals he wants to reach

Size 16 shoes. Over 6-feet-8-inches tall. And, yes, he can dunk.
Oh, yeah — Caleb Dean is only a sophomore.

The Novi Wildcat is the prototype of the future. In eighth grade, he decided to see how tall he could jump. He slammed the ball home. That was the same year he decided he wanted to play college basketball. Now, he wants more.

"It's the dream of dreams," Dean said. "My goal is to play college basketball, but my dream is to play professionally. I have to focus, though, and make sure not to look ahead."

Dean is straight off the back of a Nike shirt. He drinks, eats, breathes, sleeps and lives basketball. On Sunday, he goes to the temple: Novi High School's basketball court. The hardwood welcomes him, it accepts him. He's home.

He worships the game. When he wakes up in the morning, basketball is the first thing that runs through his head. When he goes to sleep, it's the last thing that dances through his noggy mind, reminding his dreams with savory orange and black accents.

"I have a passion for basketball," Dean admits. "It's something I really enjoy. I want to play. I like to play."

And he's not blind to the realities of the game, either. Dean started on his path in eighth grade. He lifts weights. He runs. He shoots every chance he gets.

More importantly, he listens and he learns. Working with Dean's own Coach Tom Schuler, Novi's head varsity coach, as well as the coaches of the Amateur Athletic Union Michigan Mustangs basketball program.

He listens to what college coaches have to say. He's had unofficial contact with Oakland University, Central Michigan University and even the University of Michigan.

He leaves the paint crew though green and white (Novi) through his veins.

"I'm a Michigan State guy myself," he said with a laugh. "But if I ended up going to Michigan and getting my tuition paid for, then I would still want to go to Michigan."

Dean said he has high expectations for himself. Though obtaining a scholarship to a place like a Mid-American Conference school would reach his primary goal, he said he knows he can do better.

He plays the game for himself. For his family who comes and cheers him on — his father, Mike, his mother, Heidi, and his sister, Hannah. He does it for those who can't come watch him play, too.

Dean's grandmother, Bethal Tisch, died in August. She always told her grandson that hard work pays off and everything happens for a reason.

"It keeps me going," he said. "I just remember that every time I wake up and I don't want to go school. Hard work always pays off. I think it's going to pay off for me if I work hard enough. I know I still have a lot of work to do."

And he's far from ready. Upper-body strength, speed, shooting — they're all the things Dean knows he has to work on in order to get the attention he needs to draw college interest to the point of a scholarship.

But he's only a sophomore, right? There's plenty of time to get better.

Unless, of course, you want to make it to the ranks of the Big 10 and beyond.

"Sure, there's a lot of pressure," Dean admits. "You have to expect that. When you have the passion for the game I do and the goals I do, you have to expect that pressure."

Dean is ready to do what he needs to do in order to make his dream of dreams come true. One step is to earn an invitation to the prestigious ABCD Basketball Camp.

"I have to keep that in my mind at all times," he said. "Even if I'm tired or if I've already gone to practice, I have to work harder. I'll stay after, lift weights and do pushups. I'll get there early and work on my jump shots. If that's what I need to do, then I'll do it."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 249-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@gnant.com.



Quick Hits

We have a winner!

Eric Zhao has plenty to be proud of when it comes to the arena of athletic competition. There are few athletes that are able to put up the same skills he possesses and the few who do rarely are able to compete with him. He's a standout and a captain this year in track and a competitor in football and basketball.

Novi Zhao has shown it's not just athletically he succeeds, but in the classroom and now in the even more competitive venue of scholarships.

Zhao was recently announced as one of the MHSAA's \$1,000 scholarship winners. He'll use the money to help pay for his pre-pharmacy studies at the University of Michigan.

Zhao's essay excerpt defines his role as an athlete. "By knowing that I'm doing the right thing, every pregame shrill, every bead of sweat, and every mark that I make in the sandpit means that much more to me. The effects of sportsmanship are everlasting."

Zhao may have earned the scholarship, but he wasn't the only Wildcat in the running. John Favorite was a finalist for the award as well.

Daddies and their daughters

Kudos to the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry department for holding the annual Daddy/Daughter Dance last Friday and Saturday.

Sports writer Sam Eggleston took his four-year-old daughter, Shaylyn, to the dining where they enjoyed a nice sampling at the buffet, the chocolate fountain, having their photo taken and dancing. It was, quite simply, a blast.

While they were there, Eggleston ran into some familiar faces in basketball coach Pat Schluter with his two daughters and assistant principal Randy Gavel and his daughter.

It's nice to know these guys aren't all work and no play.

Folino earns yet another honor

Rachelle Folino, Novi's top girls' basketball player and first-ever Division I basketball scholarship recipient, recently received notice she's one of the McDonald's All-American nominees.

Though the final selections haven't been made, it's an honor just being a nominee for the prestigious squad.

Newcomer of the Year

Speaking of accolades, Novi graduate Brad Simpson sure knows how to rake them in. The former All-Area player of the year in soccer was recently named as the University of Cincinnati Soccer Team's Newcomer of the Year.

It probably won't be long until he's being named player of the year while he's at it.

Writer wanted

The Novi News is looking for a writer interested in covering Catholic Central sports for the remainder of the winter season and through spring.

The Shamrocks have state-ranked spots, potential state championships and plenty of athletes to write about.

Interested writers should e-mail Sam Eggleston at seggleston@gnant.com.



Sam Eggleston



Cagers lose a close contest

The Novi Wildcats basketball team would rather not talk about last week's loss to Lakeland.

The squad, coached by Pat Schluter, fell, 27-22, to the Lakeland Eagles.

The Eagles came into the contest and played their traditional, slow-paced, defensive basketball and it proved enough to earn the victory.

"We just didn't have any luck," said Schluter. "We were right there, but we couldn't get the win."

The Wildcats came out in the first half and fell behind, 9-4, before coming out in the second half 17-15 thanks to the shooting of Caleb Dean and Wiley Moss in the interior game.

In the third, scoring was a dismal sight as Lakeland hit a three-point field goal and Novi's A.W. Stasch had two points for a total of five points in the quarter.

Lakeland took the lead in the opening minute on a quick three pointer before Novi crept back into the contest.

In the final moments, the Wildcats cut the Lakeland lead to one point on a free throw by Stasch. His second shot was negated on a late violation.

Stasch snagged an offensive rebound on the following possession and scored to give Novi a two-point lead before Lakeland added the final field goal of the contest with just over 40 seconds left.

The game ended with a missed three point shot by Novi's Trevor Borsak and a quick foul that added two points from the free-throw line.



Novi's Stephanie Cripps smacks a spike over the net during the Wildcats' home game against the Howell Highlanders.

Novi dropped to 7-8 overall and 6-3 in the KVC. They are still in second place in the conference.

The Novi hockey team showed why they are ranked in the top-10 in the state last week when they beat Chelsea, 5-1, and South St. Marie, 4-0.

Scoring against Chelsea, the third-ranked Division III team in the state, were Alex Martell, Steve Rousseau, Ryan Timar, Shamus Finnerty and Tom Claverilla.

Against the Blue Devils, Novi's scorers Timar, Claverilla, Mike Arnold and Marc Bernier.

Matt Wiggy earned the win at goalie.

Novi's Stephanine Cripps smacks a spike over the net during the Wildcats' home game against the Howell Highlanders.

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CC wrestlers grab another CHSL title

The Catholic Central wrestling team captured their 12th consecutive and 26th overall Catholic League Championship Wrestling title last Saturday.

The Shamrocks hosted the 32 annual CHSL Wrestling Championships at their new Novi facility. A field of nine teams wrestled for the title.

The Shamrocks were able to retain their title by earning a commanding 224.5 team points. Second and third place was a close race as was decided by only one half of a point with second place going to Divine Child with 179 points while Brother Rice led in points for third-place with 178.5 points.

The Shamrocks also had a commanding presence in the final round sending ten wrestlers into the championship matches.

Earning the first individual championship for the evening was Freshman Barrett Schwarzkose at 103 pounds.

Barrett pinned all three of his opponents to win his first CHSL championship. Also pinning all three of their opponents for the Shamrocks and earning first place honors was two-time CHSL Champion Sean Dong (145) and first time CHSL Champion Mike Carrier (171).

First place finishes for the Shamrocks were also earned by two-time CHSL champion Andrew Naultir (135), Robert Price (140) and John Kinville (215) as well as first time champion John Farmer (160).

Bringing home 2nd place honors for the Shamrocks were Nicko Ianni (112), Antonio Cosme (119) and Ryan Brown (152), while Mike Wikar (125) finished fourth.

The Shamrocks competed at Team Districts at South Lyon High School on Wednesday, February 15 and will compete at Individual Districts at Saline High School on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Hockey team wins two

The Catholic Central Shamrocks completed and won their two games in the MIHL High School Showcase held at the Kennedy Ice Arena in Troy.

Thirty teams from all over Michigan competed during the weekend in front of Junior A and college scouts. The Shamrocks beat Grosse Pointe North by a score of 5-1 in the opening game of the MIHL Showcase.

With the victory CC claimed the MIHL Conference Championship for the seventh straight year. CC out shot the Roseman by a 22-12 count.

Goal scorers for CC were: Chad Wilhelm, Nick Krull (2), Dan Nauroto, and Tim Buttery. Assists were recorded by: Adam McGee, Greg Merrill (2), Steve Jankowski (2), Evan Anon, Dan Nauroto and Tim Buttery.

In the second game of the weekend The Shamrocks defeated Muskegon Moa Shores by a score of 5-2.

The game was a penalty filled affair with Moa Shores making most of the infractions. The Shamrocks got on the board first against CC and held a 1-0 lead going into the second period.

In the second period the Shamrocks made Moa Shores pay during two power plays by scoring two goals in 17 seconds to take a 2-1 lead.

CC finished out the second period scoring on a full strength goal with only three minutes remaining. In the third CC scored two more goals to secure the victory. The Shamrocks dominated the Shamrocks by out shooting them 33-8. Goal scorers were: Nick Krull, Steve Jankowski, Adam McGee, Chad Wilhelm, and Jeremy Christopher. Assists were recorded by: Tim Buttery (2), Mike Maviglia, Greg Merrill and Jeff Lenzy.

Catholic Central's record now stands at 16-3-2.

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Walker sisters head for the Hills

Twins Katie and Kellie will play soccer for Western Kentucky

By Sam Eggleston SPORTS WRITER



Wildcat soccer standouts Katie, left, and Kellie Walker sign their letters of intent to attend Western Kentucky University.

Western Kentucky should count it's blessings when the women's soccer team starts thinking about next season.

They don't have to count very high to know they're in for some solid soccer.

One, two. The Walker twins, Katie and Kellie, will take their game from Novi to the hills of Kentucky next fall after signing their national letter of intent to play for the Hilltoppers and coach Jason Neidell.

"We are thrilled to have Katie and Kellie join our program," Neidell said. "The twins are technically gifted players with great quickness and a really tenacious attitude. We believe that they both have the ability to compete for playing time right away."

Kellie will most likely play inside midfielder for the Hilltoppers while Katie will play outside mid.

The decision to attend that same college came early for the Walkers, who will room together at the university.

The sisters picked Western Kentucky over other schools like Ball State and Middle Tennessee State.

"I don't think I could go anywhere without her," Katie said. "It's comforting to know she'll be right there."

Kellie is planning on studying to become a teacher while Katie isn't decided yet, though she has narrowed down to teaching or exercise sciences.

The school is about seven hours south of Novi, located about 45 minutes away from Nashville.

The twins' parents, John and Lisa, are thrilled for their daughters.

"It's pretty amazing when you think about it," Lisa said. "They only give out a couple of scholarships a year. There are just 12 for the whole roster of soccer players and here there are two

from the same school. It's just amazing."

There's no doubt the Walkers girls are going to be factors in the Hilltoppers' success when they're in the game.

Last year, for Novi, Katie scored 12 goals and had 11 assists. Eight of her goals came in the state playoffs. Kellie notched 12 goals and 11 assists and made honorable mention all-state.

Both will be captains of the team this spring along with Lauren Marchioni.

"The number one thing that comes to mind when thinking about the Walker twins is their incredible work ethic," said Novi coach Brian O'Leary. "They work hard every practice, at every game and in the off season. They just never stop working and making themselves better soccer players."

The twins sat down last Wednesday and inked their letters in front of family and friends, joining them will be fellow Michigan Hawk club player and Walled Lake Central's all-time leading scorer, Paige Taylor.

Having a friend and each other close by will make living in another state easier for the two standouts.

"We're rooming together, it shouldn't be that uncomfortable," Kellie said. "We're really excited to go there."

But there's still plenty of work to be done in Novi. The two Wildcats will be expected to help lead their team in defense of last year's Division I state title.

That doesn't appear to be too far from their minds.

"We want to win another state championship," said Katie. "That's our goal again this year."

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

SPORTS SHORTS

CYO football
St. Edith Football will be holding a sign up on Sunday, February 19th, anytime from 2-4:30 p.m. inside the entrance of the St. Edith gym.

Players entering the 3rd-8th grades in the fall and are members of St. Caletic, St. Aidan, St. Kenneth, St. Gerald, St. Aidan, St. Maurice, St. Fabian, and St. Edith are invited to sign up.

The program includes a freshman (3rd grade), junior varsity II (5th grade), junior varsity I (6th grade), varsity II (mostly 7th grade), and varsity I (mostly 8th grade).

For more information, please contact Jason Tomasi and email: jtomasi@twm.com or edith-football@bol.com or visit www.stedithcyo.com

3-on-3 basketball youth tournament

Northville Parks & Recreation will be hosting the 75-26 at the Recreation Center located at Hillside Middle School on the corner of Eight Mile Road and Center Street.

The cost is \$85 per team with three or four players on each team. The entry will be given to all participants and awards will be given to the first-place team.

For more information, call (248) 349-0203 for more information.

Adult hockey

Sign-up now for the winter season of the Breakfast Club Adult Hockey Series.

Registration is underway for the Breakfast Club presented by Labatt-Suburban Hockey's weekly morning skills and conditioning series for adult hockey players of all ability levels.

The Breakfast Club will take place at Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills on Tuesday and Wednesday, Suburban Ice-Metro on Tuesday, Oxy-Rochester Ice Arena and Dearborn Ice Skating Center on Thursday. Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills will also be the site of the Advanced Breakfast Club program on Thursdays.

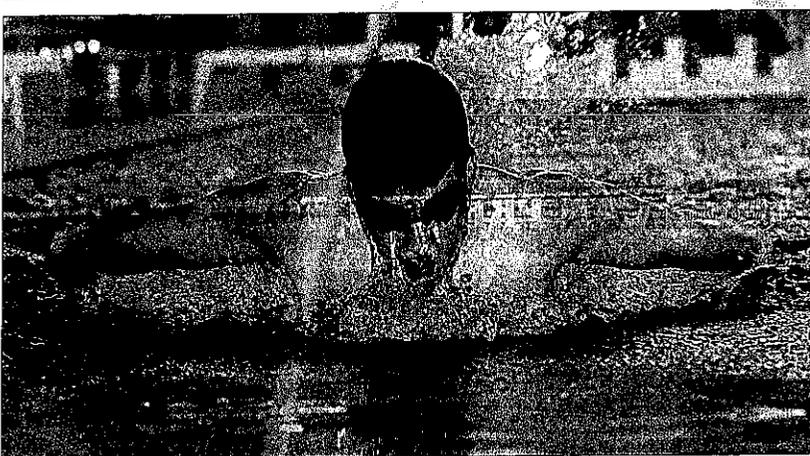
The goals of the program are to improve players' overall knowledge of the game, teach new skills, increase enjoyment of the game, build confidence, conditioning and develop skating and stick skills in a competitive and fun environment.

Coaches include former professional and collegiate players with vast coaching and playing experience.

All youth hockey coaches receive 50 percent off tuition to the Breakfast Club. New this year is a special offer from RBK Hockey - all registered players may purchase an RBK SK Modano pattern hockey stick for just \$75 (retail is \$150).

In addition, players who refer a new player to the Breakfast Club will receive \$50 off their tuition.

This is a popular program and there is limited enrollment. For more information on the Breakfast Club or any other Suburban Hockey program, contact (248) 478-1600 or www.suburbanhockey.com.



Novi High student Nick Wright swims his specialty in the Wildcat pool: the butterfly.

DEDICATED TO SWIMMING

Senior captain Nick Wright gives everything to his athletics



Nick Wright isn't afraid to suggest someone else right into something if they want to try it — but they better be willing to give it their all when they hit the water.

Wright has made a career out of putting 100 percent into his work. That's why he gave up football and track to focus primarily on swimming.

"When I was a freshman and a sophomore, I was in football and track," Wright said. "The last two years I quit so I could stay in shape for swimming."

The other two sports didn't lend themselves well to the 200 individual medley and the 100-meter freestyle, which are Wright's bread and butter events.

The senior captain is just a second off his lifetime best in the medley and is swimming as fast as he ever has in the freestyle.

He said it's not about what he's able to accomplish as an individual though, but what the team is able to do.

"I'm happy where we are at as a team," he said. "Honestly, I didn't think we were going to be as good as we are. We're competitive in the KVC and we've never chucked at the title. It's a long shot, but it's a shot."

But Wright knows all about being a long shot. He was a part of the Novi swimming and diving team when they didn't even have a pool to call their own in those days, the team wasn't considered much of a threat to anyone.

Now, that's different. Now, they have more to strive for, like a title in their conference. "We didn't have the KVC guy freshman and sophomore year," Wright said. "It's nice to have a championship and a title. Now, every meet means something in the KVC and that makes it a lot more fun."

In his senior year, Wright is learning the value of being a leader. He said in his younger days, he may have tried slacking a little and maybe even dodged some hard work now and again. As a captain, he focuses on making sure everyone is ready to put in a hard day's work.

He said that's a job made easier under the watchful eye of his coach, Bill McCord.

"Coach McCord seems like he's always laid back, but practices aren't easy and you don't mess around," he said. "When he's watching, you're working."

Thought the opportunity to swim at the next level has peaked at Wright, he said he's heavily considering taking time away from competitive swimming and focusing on his collegiate courses.

Oakland Community College presents a place where he can take basic classes before transferring to a place like Oakland University where he said he'll consider trying out for the swim team.

But if he never swims competitively again, Wright said the sport will always be a part of his life.

"I'll always be swimming," he said. "When I'm not doing that, I'll be working out. I want to stay in shape and swimming is a great way to do that."

And one day, Wright hopes to apply his future career to the sport. He said he hopes to study to become a teacher and perhaps, one day, run a gym and health curriculum and coach a swim team.

But Wright isn't all work and no play. When he isn't in the pool — which is most of his life — he's out with his girlfriend watching movies at Emagine Theater in Novi or playing sandlot football with his friends. Sometimes, he even takes some alone time and plays his Playstation 2.

At the end of the day, he's probably where most people expect to find him though: Right in the pool.

"I love swimming," he said. "It's something I'm good at and it's something I enjoy. I really couldn't ask for anything else."

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

Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp.

This camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls, ages 10-19, are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison.

Players from every state and 19 countries attended the 2005 camp.

College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. Camp locations include: Lebanon, Tenn., Prescott, Ariz., Thousand Oaks, Calif., Sterling, Colo., Bridgeport, Conn., Babson Park, Fla., Gainesville, Ga., Champaign, Ill., North Manchester, Ind., Towson, Md., Madison, Wis., Glassboro, N.J., Schenectady, N.Y., Hickory, N.C., Commerce, Texas, Blacksburg, Va., Lynchburg, Va. and Beloit, Wis.

For more information and a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.

Shorts in the Sports Shorts section of the Novi News.

Part of the team

Michael Renkiewicz finds his place in the sports he loves

Michael Renkiewicz's primary role in Novi athletics is to help on the sidelines.

For one girls basketball practice, however, he was the center of attention.

The athletes lined up at half-court. As the high school sophomore was introduced, he entered the gymnasium and sang the national anthem.

"Michael always wanted to sing at one of our games. That wasn't something that we could work out, so we allowed him to sing the national anthem at our practice," varsity coach Bill Kelp said. "I think everybody really enjoyed that a great deal. It was a pretty special moment."

His involvement in high school sports has not been characterized by school records, medals, or victories. Instead, he enjoys providing ice for injured players and operating the basketball scoreboard.

Renkiewicz has Down syndrome, and he is happy to be part of a team.

Curt Ellis helped Renkiewicz become involved in Novi athletics. As a freshman, Renkiewicz began to work with the varsity football team; this season, he has helped with football, girls basketball, and volleyball.

"Curt Ellis knew Michael, and he's the one who brought Michael to our attention at the beginning of football," varsity football coach Tim Kasperowicz said. "He said that he had a kid that would really enjoy the opportunity to be a part of a team."

Renkiewicz attended home varsity football games, helping fix broken equipment and giving water to athletes.

enjoyed learning how to assist injured athletes.

"If your ankle, if it hurts so bad, I get a bag of ice and they put it on the ankle, make sure the swelling is down a little bit, then [you] go back ... on the field," he said.

During the fall season, Renkiewicz also attended all girls basketball practices, operating the scoreboard clock for timed drills. At the end-of-season banquet, Renkiewicz received a framed picture of him with the team.

"He became part of our team," Kelp said. "Our philosophy in the girls basketball program is to create a family atmosphere, become a family, and I think he became a big part of that. We had 13 girls, three coaches and Michael."

"I like basketball," Renkiewicz said. "They want me [to] stay on the team."



Bill Kelp, Novi High School varsity girls coach, greets one of his other "coaches"—student Michael Renkiewicz, who helps Kelp during practices and attends every Wildcat game.

or gain recognition from college teams. Athletics, for Renkiewicz, are opportunities to interact with student-athletes, wear apparel on

game days, and be included on a team. "I like the sports," he said. "I like working with them so much."

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

"He became part of our team. Our philosophy in the girls basketball program is to create a family atmosphere, become a family, and I think he became a big part of that. We had 13 girls, three coaches and Michael."

Coach Bill Kelp
Novi High School varsity girls basketball

Conditioning leads to better season

By Aileen Wingbold
GAMMETT NEWS SERVICE

This time of year, golfers are among the most anxious for spring to begin.

Despite their longing, however, the links will likely remain snow-covered and the clubs stowed away for weeks to come.

Yet it's not too soon start getting ready for the golf course—particularly for people willing to take a few extra steps to stave off injury during the sport's all-too-fleeting season.

Philip Schmitt, D.O., an orthopedic surgeon with Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, reminds golfers that some simple preparations can make for a more successful, healthier and enjoyable game once the season is in full swing.

"The idea is to get people involved in spring training to cut down on injuries, to focus on conditioning in advance," Schmitt said. "Our big mantra is we want to keep you from missing time on the golf course—which is important because our season here is so short."

Cunolly, a Huron Valley-Sinai physical therapist and certified athletic trainer, is offering a free golf fitness session, part of Huron Valley-Sinai's wellness program series. It's scheduled for Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. and will run about an hour-and-a-half. All ages are welcome.

"This year, we will be focusing on prevention in the off-season," Schmitt said. "This includes core stability—strengthening the hips, pelvis, abdominal muscles and back muscles. That will relate to a more powerful and better golf swing, and no injuries."

Proper diet and exercise will also be discussed, along with cardiovascular training, stretching and balance activities. "It's about overall fitness and the benefits that brings to your golf game," he said. "When your body is more coordinated and you are better trained, you have a better game."

"The most common injuries that Schmitt sees in golfers are the result of overuse—which stems from poor conditioning, he explained. Unlike folks who live in warmer climates like Florida where golfing can be considered a year-round sport, Michigan

low back sprain and tendinitis, he added. During the golf fitness program, Schmitt will also discuss injuries and their prevention should they occur.

Still, he said, the key is avoiding them in the first place with proper warm-up before, during and after golfing. He and Cunolly will explain in detail what activities are best—and urge people to get started right away.

"That's why we have the lecture at the end of February. We want people to work on this in March and April, because as soon as the sun comes out, we know they are going to head to that golf course," he said.

Injury-preventing exercises should be done two or three times each week. They are simple and effective, with gains in strength and flexibility noticeable within four to six weeks, said Schmitt. "And those who do them are so much further ahead than anyone else," he added.

To participate in Golf Fitness, pre-registration is required. Do so by calling (248) 937-3314 or (888) DMC-2500, or register online at www.hvsh.org.



Philip Schmitt, D.O.
Huron Valley-Sinai hospital

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AMC 5P	AMC 5:30P	AMC 6P	AMC 6:30P
AMC 7P	AMC 7:30P	AMC 8P	AMC 8:30P
AMC 9P	AMC 9:30P	AMC 10P	AMC 10:30P

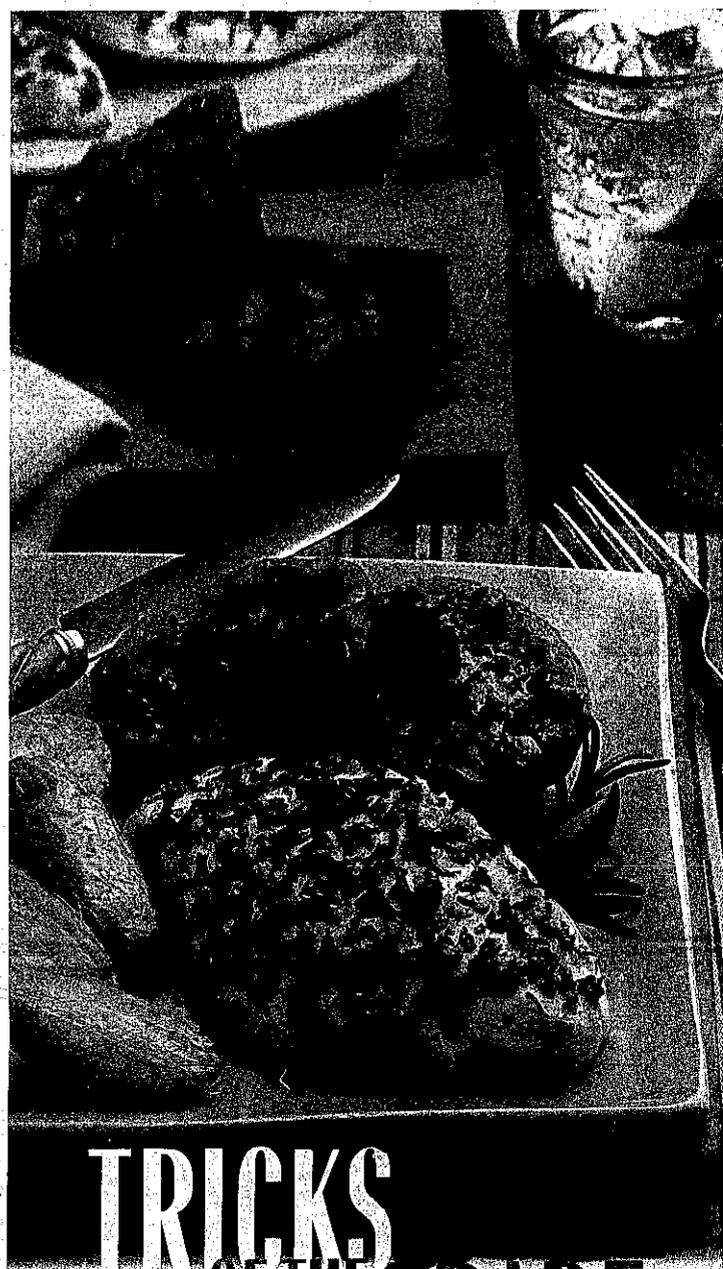
"THE BEST 'FINAL DESTINATION' YET!"
CHRIS CARR, IAN COOMES

FINAL DESTINATION 3

NOW PLAYING

AMC 10:30P	AMC 11P	AMC 11:30P	AMC 12:30A
AMC 1P	AMC 1:30P	AMC 2P	AMC 2:30P
AMC 3P	AMC 3:30P	AMC 4P	AMC 4:30P
AMC 5P	AMC 5:30P	AMC 6P	AMC 6:30P
AMC 7P	AMC 7:30P	AMC 8P	AMC 8:30P
AMC 9P	AMC 9:30P	AMC 10P	AMC 10:30P

FOOD



Super Chocolate & Peanut Bar Brownies

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted, plus a little more for greasing pan
1 cup sugar
2 large eggs
2 tablespoons water
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 pinch salt
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
8 fun-size chocolate, caramel, nougat and peanut candy bars, refrigerated

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease 9- x 13-inch cake pan (aluminum is fine) with butter.
Beat butter and sugar together in large bowl until blended. Beat in eggs, one at a time, stir in water and vanilla. Sprinkle salt and baking powder over mix; then beat in. Do same with cocoa. Stir in flour just until blended.
Put candy bars in blender or food processor and pulse on low speed until all have been reduced to coarse crumbs. Fold candy bar crumble into batter thoroughly. Scrape batter into prepared pan. Bake about 30 minutes, until center is set but still somewhat soft, and top starts to crack a little. Cool completely before cutting into squares.
Makes about 15, depending on how cut

Oven-Roasted Plum Tomatoes

4 ripe plum tomatoes (about 1 pound)
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
4 pinches salt
10 grind black pepper

Preheat oven to 400°F. Line baking sheet with aluminum foil.
Cut off tomato tips and top cores. Halve tomatoes lengthwise. Toss halves together in bowl with oil, thyme, salt and pepper. Lay tomatoes on baking sheet, cut side up, and pour over them any seasoned oil left in bottom of bowl.
Roast until skins are shriveled and tops are lightly browned, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool to room temperature, and then gently pinch off shriveled skins. Serve at room temperature.
Makes 4 servings
Note: These tomatoes freeze well by wrapping small quantities in Glad Press'n Seal Freezer wrap to keep freshness in and air out.

Rosemary-Garlic Chicken Cutlets

12 (6- to 7-ounce) boneless, skinless chicken breasts
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1/4 cup chopped fresh rosemary
5 garlic cloves, pressed
3 pinches salt
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

Tear off two lengths of Glad Press'n Seal wrap, about 15 inches long each. Put 1 chicken breast in center on one sheet of wrap; cover with second sheet. Using either meat mallet or small, heavy pot, pound thick part of cutlet so that whole breast is about 1/2 inch thick. Repeat with remaining breasts.
Mix oil, rosemary, garlic, salt and pepper in bowl, add chicken and evenly coat with spice mixture. Can be prepared to this point up to a day before cooking chicken; just cover and refrigerate.
To prep more than a day in advance, wrap individual cutlets in Glad Press'n Seal Freezer wrap before freezing. Then thaw a few hours before cooking.
Set up grill or stove-top grill pan. Grill chicken, turning only once, until browned and cooked through, about 6 minutes.
Makes 12 servings

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Learn timesaving tips from personal chefs

Gwyneth has two of them (one for savory, one for sweets). Oprah's has written his own cookbooks. The neighbors down the street may have one visit their kitchen once a month.

"It's easy to see why personal chefs are in hot demand," says Dave Lieberman, personal chef, author of *Young and Hungry* and host of the Food Network's *Good Deal with Dave Lieberman*. "People are busier than ever and looking for ways to eat well within their lifestyles."

"What many types of personal chefs do isn't necessarily that hard," explains Lieberman. "It's primarily about cooking smarter, and all that it requires is a little planning." Lieberman offers tips for incorporating personal chef know-how into your everyday kitchen routines:

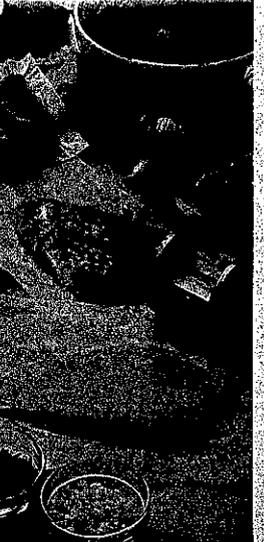
- Prep your most-used ingredients ahead of time—then store them in "quick grab" packages made from a sealing wrap like Glad Press'n Seal wrap that seals air out to help keep food fresh. Chopped onion, grated cheese, pie crust and bread dough are great items to have on hand in your fridge or freezer. Lieberman also suggests freezing socks in ice cube trays. "This is great for leftover wine, too."
- Pre-prepping flavorful meal starters is also a great way to jump-start weekday meals, still leaving room for last minute creativity. For example, boneless, skinless chicken breasts can be individually wrapped and frozen in a favorite marinade. By the time they thaw, they're packed with flavor and ready for a variety of recipes—from salads to entrees.
- High-impact ingredients and transform even the most basic foods. "Adding a handful of fresh herbs to a pro-made dish—even if it's just yesterday's leftovers—is a great way to bring it to life," stresses Lieberman. One of his favorite flavor boosters is to freeze small quantities of butter blended with herbs, spices and other seasonings, to top steaks, fish, grilled or steamed vegetables and baked potatoes.
- Whenever Lieberman cooks basics like potatoes or rice, he always ups the quantity to keep some handy for later in the week. "That way you're always got the makings for a fast and easy side dish... simple sautéed potatoes; impromptu fried rice... you name it!"

With simple ingredients and a little planning, family and friends might think you have a personal chef in your pantry.

Portion Power

Portioning is a great way to enjoy chef-worthy food in moderation. Portioning out meals also allows for easy transportation from lunchboxes to dinner at Grandma's. Prep food once, then enjoy over and over.

- Grab the Good Deal: From a giant pack of pork chops to a whole beef tenderloin by the side of salmon, "nice meats" main ingredients are the perfect place to start when looking for cooking inspiration. Even if you're not going to cook up all that meat or fish now, in just a few minutes you can create individual files for the freezer.
- Divide and Conquer: When super-size packages of favorite veggies like cauliflower, zucchini, green beans, mushrooms, etc. are on sale, it's a great time to buy them. They're perfect for portioning out into individual bags for the freezer. You can use them in a variety of ways, from soups to stir-fries to casseroles.



All recipes adapted from *Young and Hungry*, courtesy of Hyipiron.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 68

Local News

Thursday, February 16, 2006

ADVERTISEMENT

RENTER'S INSURANCE COVERS PERSONAL BELONGINGS THAT YOUR LANDLORD DOESN'T

Do you know the value of your belongings?

Weston, Mich., February 16, 2006
 - If your apartment burns down or is burglarized, would you have the money to replace your personal belongings? Most renters do not realize that their landlord's insurance only covers the building structure and not tenants' belongings. Renter's insurance is available to protect personal belongings from fire, theft, vandalism and damage from plumbing.

Renter's insurance can also cover more than personal belongings. Options are available to cover the renter if a guest is injured while in the apartment or if the policyholder or a member of their family cause damage to another property. There are also options to cover reasonable increases in certain living expenses necessary to maintain your normal standard of living, for up to the amount of time specified in the policy, if a covered loss makes your residence premises uninhabitable.

"Most people need to be educated about the advantages of renters insurance," says Allstate Agent. "Renters are surprised to learn just how much they risk losing without proper insurance for both their personal belongings and personal liability."

Below are some additional facts and figures from Allstate Insurance Company regarding its renters policy:

- A burglary occurs every 10 seconds and according to recent FBI statistics, two of every three burglaries occur in homes, condos or apartments with an average loss of \$1,000 per residence.

- Coverage can be provided to cover theft whether at home or away from home. This coverage includes protection against robbery, pickpocket theft and even credit card loss, forged checks or counterfeit money.

- Two discounts available to renters include 5% and 10% and protective device discount. The protective device discount is available for renters who have a fire extinguisher, smoke alarm, burglar alarm or dead bolt locks. This includes a discount to renters who live in buildings that provide 24-hour security personnel.

- Your renter's policy can be enhanced to increase your coverage for certain losses by allowing you to help tailor coverage based on your needs, for such items as jewelry, silverware and personal computers. Coverage and discounts are subject to availability and qualifications. Other terms, conditions and exclusions may apply.

For more information on this and other safety topics, contact Allstate Agent Louis Kirby at 248.69.0755.

The Allstate Corporation (NYSE:ALL) is the nation's largest, publicly held personal lines insurer celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of Allstate Insurance Company. The Allstate Corporation (NYSE:ALL) is the nation's largest publicly held personal lines insurer. Widely known through the "You're In Good Hands With Allstate" slogan, Allstate helps individuals in approximately 17 million households protect what they have today and the better prepare for tomorrow through approximately 14,100 exclusive agencies and financial professionals in the U.S. and Canada. Customers can access Allstate products and services such as auto insurance and homeowners insurance through Allstate agencies, or in select states at allstate.com and 1-800-Allstate. EncorpasSM and Dextrobook® insurance brand property and casualty products are sold exclusively through independent agents. The Allstate Financial Group provides life insurance, supplemental accident and health insurance, annuity, lending and retirement products designed for individual, institutional and workplace customers that are distributed through Allstate agencies, independent agencies, financial institutions and broker-dealers.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Northville Physical Rehabilitation therapist Julie Fickett watches Roger Monforton as he works to repair a torn rotator cuff in his shoulder.

Northville Physical Rehabilitation

Northville center marks 21 years of service to meet growing demand

By Duane Ramsey
 SPECIAL WRITER

Northville Physical Rehabilitation is marking its 21st year of operation in downtown Northville this March. In addition to opening its second location in Northville, the practice has added new staff, equipment and treatment programs to meet the physical fitness, rehabilitation and therapy needs of its growing list of patients.

"We are thankful for the continued growth we have experienced in the Northville community," said Dennis Engerer, physical therapist and director of Northville Physical Rehabilitation, P.C., which has two downtown Northville locations on Main and Cady streets.

"We now have 20 employees, and some of the best equipment available to provide the latest physical and occupational therapy treatment techniques available," said Engerer.

"Whether it's general physical rehabilitation that may be required following an athletic injury or recovering from a spinal cord injury, we want to provide the best trained clinicians using state-of-the-art equipment to meet our patients' needs."

"We have tried to be sensitive in providing those treatment programs that our patients and the local, medical community are requesting," said Engerer.

One example, according to Engerer, is assisting men and women that have weakness in their pelvic floor muscle group, which often contributes to urinary and bowel incontinence. Since many of the treatment pro-



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NORTHVILLE RECORD

Northville Physical Rehabilitation therapist Brad Gilha works with patient Jana Sodam.

grams involve improving muscle strength and endurance, it made sense that we could help those patients with pelvic floor muscle weakness.

The staff at Northville Physical Rehabilitation has been able to assist many of those patients by using biofeedback and electrical muscle stimulation to educate people about regaining muscle awareness and improving strength in the involved muscle groups. The practice has partnered

with urologists and family practice physicians, who identified a need in the community to develop that specialized service. It has been extremely successful for patients needing that kind of treatment," said Engerer.

Another example of providing the services required is the new equipment installed at the Cady Street facility. The Aquatic pool is a device that allows patients to put partial weight on their lower extremities while walking or exercising in water.

NORTHVILLE PHYSICAL REHABILITATION, P.C.

Downtown Northville

Two locations:
 • 215 East Main Street (248) 349-9339
 • 300 East Cady Street (248) 349-9336

Web: www.NorthvillePhysicalRehab.com

Hours: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-noon

Many orthopedic surgeons wanted their post-surgical hip and knee replacement patients to experience partial weight bearing during their initial rehabilitation. We responded to those requests with the new equipment and treatment," said Engerer.

The growth in both the size of facilities and staff has been in response to the demand for their services and also in providing the type of care people are expecting as they attempt to improve the quality of their lives.

"Quality of life may involve improving strength, reducing pain or simply being able to walk or care for oneself," said Engerer. "It's very satisfying when someone tells you that you helped them to improve their quality of life even a little bit."

Northville Physical Rehabilitation is able to provide a broad spectrum of physical and occupational rehabilitation services for patients with simple to very complex injuries or illnesses. The staff tailors its treatment plans according to each patient's ability and personal expectations.

"I am proud of our tradition of personal care and we hear it frequently from patients that have

received treatment at other rehab facilities," Engerer said. "I feel we have some of the most dedicated and empathetic staff in the business. Without the caring human element, even the best equipment and training means very little."

Since they see patients from very young to very old individuals with simple to often complex diagnoses, it is always a challenge to apply the best staff and treatment plan for the patient. "It is a challenge that we never rest with," said Engerer.

The clinical staff at Northville Physical Rehabilitation includes five physical therapists, a physical therapist assistant, occupational therapist, exercise physiologist, athletic trainer and several physical therapy technicians.

In addition to treating patients at their two locations, the staff can provide care in a patient's home, when necessary. Transportation is available for patients in the local area.

Northville Physical Rehabilitation also offers a physical fitness program at both locations on a monthly basis for a small fee. They have a personal fitness trainer and exercise physiologist on staff to serve each person's fitness needs.

"For many people who wouldn't go to a gym or health club, we provide an alternative place to go for physical fitness," said Engerer. "Many of our patients continue coming for the fitness program after their treatment because they are comfortable with our staff and equipment."

Northville Physical Rehabilitation is a participating Medicare provider and accepts most health insurance plans.

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Additional information is available on their Web site at www.NorthvillePhysicalRehab.com.

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