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Novi News

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Volume 51 Number 33 | Novi, Michigan

PHIL POWER: LEADERSHIP, NOT PARTISANSHIP, NEEDED TO MOVE MICHIGAN FORWARD, P. 11A

Council: Beck is road to the future

Council signs off on plan to fix local intersections, pavement

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

The future of Beck Road is becoming clearer.

In the short term, city officials want to fix the pavement and improve intersections from Eight Mile Road to Grand River Avenue, possibly starting in the next year.

Those plans could be expanded within 15-25 years to include widening the road to a four-lane boulevard or five lanes.

The total project could cost $14.2 million, if all of the improvements are made, according to a Novi News analysis of a report by engineering firm Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber.

Short-term plans could cost $2.54 million, and long-term fixes are estimated at $11.6 million.

City Manager Clay Pearson said the improvements are a solid investment, and noted they would likely consist of a series of projects, rather than a single, expensive undertaking. He said fixing the road is a priority.

"It's definitely something that's high on our list," Pearson said.

Officials plan to work with regional and federal authorities to angle for funding. A study that outlines the improvements was approved by City Council Monday.

"There's no sense in waiting on these things," Pearson said. "I think it'll benefit all of us if we can make some of these short-term improvements."

Fixing Beck Road was a flashpoint last fall as residents expressed concerns about increasing traffic in neighborhoods near the road. City officials ultimately decided on a staggered approach that soothed residents, while planning for Novi's future growth.

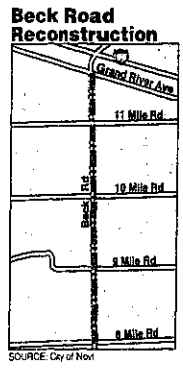
City officials also plan to coordinate construction with neighboring communities that rely on Beck, such as Northville and Plymouth Township. The road is one of the most-traveled connectors between Interstate 96 and M-14.

"People use it as a thoroughfare," Novi Mayor David Landry said. "I don't think there is a long-term alternative to widening it."

Council members were receptive to using boulevards, which if set up properly, can increase safety and add an aesthetically pleasing element to neighborhoods.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

Beck Road Reconstruction



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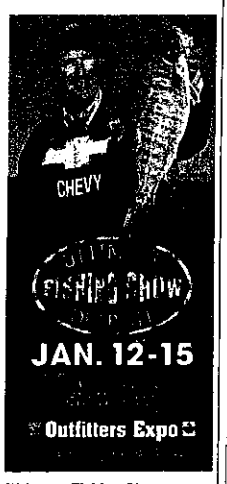
What you NEED TO KNOW



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Take another swing at winter!

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Amid winter sunshine and temperatures in the mid-40s, Rachel Gremel enjoys a swing at the Novi Community Sports Park last week.

Ready for the pitch

Library bond proposal heads to City Council

By Victoria Mitchell
STAFF WRITER

The library board is expected to ask City Council on Jan. 22 to place a $16 million bond on the November ballot for a sizable addition and renovations.

Members of the city council must approve the millage proposal before a campaign gets under way.

City of Novi Library Board President Bob Cutler said if approved by voters the bond would request an addition to increase the library to 60,000 square feet along with the infrastructure for another 30,000 square feet if needed in the future.

Other library requests expected to be unveiled at the January city council meeting include more computer terminals, bigger meeting rooms, a larger children's area and more shelving.

Cutler said members of the Board will make their formal presentation to council members along with presentations from financial and architectural representatives and library bond consultant Bev Papai, former director of the Farmington Community Library.

Library officials said the formal city presentation wraps up several years of research including organized community task forces, expert consultations and architectural designs.

Cutler said he believes now is the time to come forward and let the public decide.

"All the people I know have asked me 'When are you going to expand the library?'" he said.

Library officials said they are simply out of space.

As proposed, the owner of a $220,000 home would pay about $30 annually.

The 30-year-old, 23,000-square-foot library currently has 55 employees and is located on 10 Mile Road near the city's governmental and police headquarters.

Voters rejected a $20 million bond request for an 80,000 square foot facility in the 2001 general election.

Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or vemitchell@gannett.com.

Sound off
What do you [illegible] proposal [illegible] Attend [illegible] 22 regular [illegible] Novi Civic Center, [illegible] Road.

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Survey says: Traffic is No. 1 Novi concern

Growth and economic issues also prominent

By Greg Migliore
STAFF WRITER

The results of Novi's community survey are in. And the No. 1 issue confronting Novi isn't a stunner.

As one respondent said, it's "Traffic congestion. Traffic congestion. Traffic congestion."

Traffic, road improvements and transportation issues were cited by 59 percent of the survey's respondents, easily making it the top concern.

Novi's rapid growth, named by 46 percent of respondents, and the local economy (33 percent) were also chief issues.

"I think this is a wealth of information, and I found it really fascinating," council member Terry Margolis said.

City Manager Clay Pearson said the results will be used to figure out future spending, and he wants to do the survey at least every other year.

"We're going to use it to help drive our priorities in the budget," he said.

The next step for city officials will be to flesh out some of the data, and Pearson said he hopes to convene focus groups to add perspective to the study.

Concerns aside, the survey revealed many residents are satisfied with day-to-day life in Novi. Sixty-one percent rated the overall quality of life as "good," and another 27 percent characterized it as "excellent." The city drew a "fair" rating from 12 percent and none called life in Novi "poor."

"We've got a strong foundation to keep building up," Pearson said.

Novi's shopping garnered high marks from respondents, placing it among the best in the country. City services also got mostly positive feedback.

The 36-question survey was mailed in October and November, and 419 residents responded. It was the first community survey in Novi in recent history. It cost $14,000 and had a margin of error of five percent.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

According to results from a recent survey of Novi residents, local traffic congestion is a growing concern, including on Novi Road near Grand River Avenue.

The Top 3 Issues Facing Novi

A recent survey asked residents for their chief concerns facing Novi in the next five years. They are:

Issue	% of Respondents
1. Traffic/ Infrastructure Improvements/ Alternative Transportation	59%
2. Growth/ Over Development/ Over Population/ Planning and Zoning	46%
3. Economic Developement/ Cost of Living/ Affordable Housing/ Downtown Center	33%

Lower home heating costs

State Pointe Media
SPECIAL TO THE NOVI NEWS

With lower temperatures come higher heating costs. And with Americans already spending more than $160 billion a year to heat, cool and light their homes, cost-consciousness is more important than ever.

According to recent research from the Propane Education & Research Council (PERC), 57 percent of homeowners who recently remodeled or purchased a new custom-built home saw increased household energy costs, and virtually all respondents anticipated costs would continue to rise.

That's why PERC and other energy experts are urging homeowners to scrutinize their heating and energy choices to keep their homes comfortable and their wallets fuller.

"Americans are not powerless when it comes to their energy choices," said Scott Morgan, host of HGTV's "Dream Builders" show. "Homeowners can see a big difference by making a few small changes in the home, developing an energy plan and taking advantage of new tax credits. And families building new homes have a huge opportunity to make smart energy choices that will pay off over the long term."

As such, PERC is encouraging homeowners to save on energy costs by creating a three-step energy plan:

• Explore fuel payment plan options to spread your projected annual costs over many months, balancing the costs of seasonally higher bills.

• If you use a fuel that requires delivery, such as propane, set up a regular delivery schedule with your retailer. Consider filling your tank before the start of the heating season rather than waiting until it is empty.

• The federal government is offering a tax credit of up to $500 for qualifying energy-saving improvements made during the 2006 and 2007 calendar years. Credits are available for many home improvements including high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment such as propane water heaters and furnaces. For more information visit www.energytaxincentives.org.

And with the average American home losing up to 50 percent of its energy through inadequate insulation and inefficient appliances, according to experts like HGTV's Morgan, PERC is offering these easy tips to help consumers lower their energy bills:

• Inspect and tune-up your residential heating system regularly. A heating system that runs well is more efficient and saves money.

• Change your furnace filter regularly. Clean filters will increase efficiency.

• Consider switching to a propane water heater. Propane water heaters can save up to one third as compared to electricity, and they heat more than twice as much water in an hour as a comparable electric model.

• Turn down your water heater to 115 degrees Fahrenheit. You could save more than 10 percent on your water heating bill.

• Wrap your water heater in an insulating blanket.

• Increase your water heater's efficiency by draining it every six months to remove mineral deposits and sediment.

• Vacuum dust off refrigerator coils every three months. It takes less energy to cool that way. Check the gaskets around the door and make sure it shuts tight.

• Install flow-restricting showerheads. You can reduce hot water usage by up to 50 percent without affecting shower pressure.

• Run washing machines, clothes dryers, and dishwashers with a full load.

For additional energy savings tips from PERC, visit www.usepropane.com.

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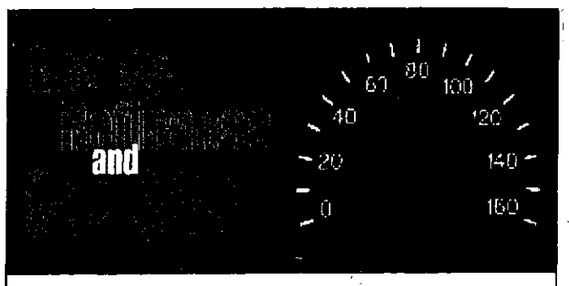

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High Wire Girls store features unique flooring by local artist

Customers walk on work of art

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Lou DeCillis could be called the "Versace of Epoxy" or the "Picasso of Concrete."

The West Bloomfield artist has turned concrete floors into works of art for more than a decade.

Locally, his artistic floors can be viewed at the High Wire Girls store at 25875 Novi Road, Suite 115, in the City Center Plaza south of Grand River Avenue, and at the Sweuringen Visions Gallery at 118 W. Main Street in downtown Northville.

There's probably nothing more enticing to DeCillis than a plain concrete floor, which most would cover with tile or carpeting. But to him, a concrete floor is a starting point for some of the most innovative and creative designs in Metro Detroit homes and businesses.

DeCillis also created the dramatic floor design spanning almost the entire Holocaust Memorial Center on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills and the basement floor of Novi artist Darci Deneau.

Her basement took first place in the 2004 Better Homes and Gardens National Search for the Best Indoor Entertainment Space.

"Lou is awesome, creative and very passionate about what he does," Deneau said. "Everyone who walks in wants to know who did our countertops and floors." She said her family has used the space for many parties, and DeCillis' floor has held up beautifully.

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., DeCillis said he "cheffed around" for many years before finding this unique artistic niche. In fact, he said much of his inspiration comes from his former creations with food.

DeCillis said his adventures in concrete began 11 years ago when he did the floor of his wife, Diane's business, the Print Gallery, in Southfield.

His background is in sculpture, and he used to own an ice sculpting business in Manhattan.

He never envisioned a career in creative flooring. But so many people wanted to have a floor like the one at his wife's gallery that he ended up studying polymer science.

As they say, the rest is history.

"I like science and tinkering with formulas," DeCillis said.

Showroom in Bloomfield Hills

He now has a 3,500-square-foot showroom and studio at 445 Enterprise Court, Suite B, in Bloomfield Hills. He also has a Web site, www.artisticfloorings-systems.com.

He works with a lot of earth tones, but he can offer custom designs in more than 30 colors. DeCillis can create his own design or use one suggested by a client.

His work lends itself to areas around pools, auto dealerships, restaurants and entertainment centers, galleries and hair salons.

Lisa Masters and Kara Laramie, owners of the High Wire Girls stores in Novi and Royal Oak, which offer fun and fashionable items for girls of all ages, asked DeCillis to do the floor in the Novi store after Masters saw one of his floors at a Berkeley, Mich., salon.

"Lou's a lot of fun and is great to work with," Masters said. "And he does great work." She said both men and women are intrigued by the artistic flooring in the Novi store.

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.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Chemist Lou DeCillis kneels on the concrete floor he created for Novi's High Wire Girls shop. The gold and green-glittery floor contains bits of glass and metal for its shine.

Novi People

Hugh D. Crawford

Hugh D. Crawford (R-Novi, Novi Township and Northville) has been nominated to serve as the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman. He was sworn in for the 2007-08 session Jan. 4 at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony.

Dr. Nicholas Doinidis

Dr. Nicholas Doinidis of Novi recently attended a program on "Wellness in Practice." Canadian chiropractor Dr. James Chestnut, director of the International Chiropractor's Association's wellness programs, expanded on his slogan "Eat well, move well and think well." Topics included diet, joint movement, loving your family and learning to forgive.

On Campus

Hope College

Nicole Nordstrom of Novi has been named to the Dean's List at Hope College for the first semester of 2006-07. A student must achieve a 3.5 minimum grade point average to be named to the Dean's List.

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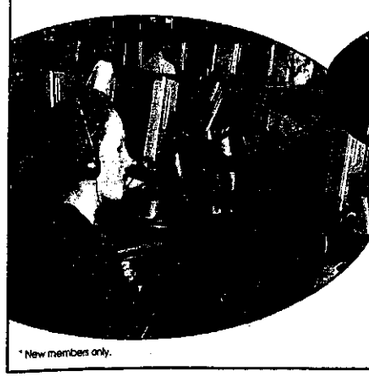

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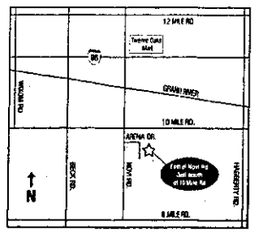

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WhirlyBall arrives in Novi

Full-service restaurant, bar available

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Carrie Grosser invites area residents to consider a different type of get-together this year.

What about a WhirlyBall party?

Known as the world's only totally mechanized team sport, WhirlyBall is a combination of basketball, hockey and jai-alai played while riding an electrically-powered machine, similar to a bumper car, called a WhirlyBug.

Grosser, general manager of the new WhirlyBall Novi, said the facility is now open and ready for parties. The new sports establishment, which opened its doors Nov. 10, was in West Bloomfield for 16 years.

Owners closed that facility at the end of January and have been working on constructing the new Novi facility, which has replaced the West Bloomfield location.

WhirlyBall is a team sport and the ultimate group activity. The playing court is about 4,000 square feet, with 10 WhirlyBugs on the court at one time.

Each player has a jai alai-style plastic scoop in one hand and a steering crank in the other.

The ball that's tossed around is a softball-sized whiffle ball. At each end of the court are vertically-hung backboards with a 15-inch hole in the center. Behind the hole is a swing gate with a buzzer to notify the referee when someone scores.

The referee calls the play-by-play during the game, keeps score and assesses penalties. Before players go out on the court, the referee reviews the rules and then assists players throughout the game.

Rental includes party room

WhirlyBall court rentals includes use of a private party room during the rental time.

When not watching the action from the room, players can use one of the two full-service bars, a gaming midway and new 5,000-square-foot lounge with pool tables, flat panel TV's, leather sofas and full restaurant.

WhirlyBall lends itself to corporate parties, bar or bat mitzvahs, birthday parties, graduation open houses, sports team banquets, couples showers, block parties, youth group outings or just a night out with friends. WhirlyBall Novi can accommodate groups of 10-400.

"It's kind of a sports bar atmosphere," Grosser said.

The kitchen is open until 11 p.m. seven days a week. Menu selections include a variety of appetizers, pizza, pasta, fajitas, burgers and sandwiches.

A variety of party platters may be ordered. Normally, the area is reserved about an hour for every 10-15 players.

"Many companies have been anticipating our grand opening, and our new lounge area is perfect for any corporate activity," Grosser said. "We just didn't have the room before."

The previous space in West Bloomfield was 13,000 square feet, with the new Novi facility offering 20,000 square feet.

"WhirlyBall is popular because its an atypical activity," Grosser said. "It's not something people do all the time, so it always seems like a new adventure."

She said it's an activity adults and children can participate in together and men and women can play as equals.

Parties can be scheduled any time during the day, and Grosser said weekend spots are filling up quickly.

Reservations are required for all court time, with a minimum of 10 players.

"We look forward to showing off our new facility to the Novi area and also catering to everyone's party needs," Grosser said.

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

> "WhirlyBall is popular because its an atypical activity. It's not something people do all the time, so it always seems like a new adventure."
>
> *Carrie Grosser*
> *General Manager, WhirlyBall Novi*

■ Welcome, WhirlyBall

WhirlyBall Novi is located at 41540 Grand River Avenue just west of Meadowbrook Road in the same building as Soccer Zone. Hours are 10 a.m.-2 a.m. seven days a week. Costs are $200 an hour for court time, which includes use of a private party room, and $100 an hour to reserve the room before or after play. For more information, call (248) 788-8900 or visit www.whirlyballmichigan.com.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

A group of Ford engineers from Dearborn enjoy an outing at Novi's whirlyball location, off Grand River Avenue.

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ABWA officer uses local firm's newsletter to promote her club

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Pamela Burns knows there's more than one way to skin a cat.

And she knows how to use her business connections.

The Novi resident serves as vice president of the Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

An employee in the Detroit practice of Deloitte & Touche, an audit, tax, consulting and financial advisory firm, she was allowed to use one of the company's internal publications, the Women's Initiative or WIN newsletter, to explain ABWA's mission and promote upcoming events.

The WIN Newsletter is a new communication tool for Deloitte, and Burns leads the newsletter committee.

After reviewing Burns' one-page submission about ABWA, newsletter committee members approved it for the November 2006 issue, the initial publication.

"I had a few eyes viewing the copy to make sure that it gave a message consistent with the firm's mission," Burns said.

She said the new Deloitte publication provides information for employees on how the Women's Initiative supports all workers in the company, not just women.

Since the article on ABWA appeared, she has already received responses.

"A few people asked more about ABWA, and a few actually joined the organization," Burns said. At least one Deloitte employee has joined.

Burns said Deloitte & Touche is recognized as a leader in advancing women and as an employer of choice.

Twelve years ago, the firm launched the Initiative for the Retention and Advancement of Women. And in 2006, the company was named by Working Mother magazine as one of the 100 Best Companies for Working Mothers for the 13th consecutive year.

Burns works as a manager in the audit services department at Deloitte & Touche's Detroit practice and has been there for seven years. She's been an ABWA member for about five years.

She learned about ABWA at the Michigan Women's Expo at the former Novi Expo Center. "I talked to some women there and decided to join," she said.

Novi High School graduate

Burns grew up in Novi, graduated from Novi High School and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Now an officer in the local ABWA chapter, she has never regretted becoming a member.

"It's a great way to make connections and feel like you're part of something. The organization has a strong core of women," Burns said.

She said being a member is more than just making local connections in the business world.

"There are opportunities to meet other ABWA members while traveling to national conventions and learning seminars," Burns said. The conventions are usually two-three days and at several locations across the country.

"The conventions are jam-packed with programs, such as how to start your own business, improve your public speaking skills or even maintain a healthy lifestyle," Burns said.

Many women have mentioned to her that when moving to a new city, the first thing they do is look up members of the local ABWA chapter.

"These members can help them get acquainted to their new city and make them feel welcome," Burns said.

However, a lot of women don't know about ABWA, according to Burns. And other women are intimidated because it has the word "business" in its name, Burns said.

"But really it's an organization for all working women," she said.

In fact, members' occupations run the gamut — from musicians to massage therapists.

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.

Weddings

Eve Elizabeth Costlow and Jeffrey Allen Dunwell

Eve Elizabeth Costlow and Jeffrey Allen Dunwell were married July 22, 2006 at Meadowbrook Congregational Church, Novi, Mich. Mark McGilvrey officiated the ceremony. A reception was held at Fox Hills, Plymouth.

The bride is the daughter of Dan and Diane Costlow of Novi. She is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, with a Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education, employed at Garden City Public Schools.

The groom is the son of Richard and Patricia Dunwell of Brighton. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan, with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Bio-Psychology, and currently enrolled in the University of Michigan Dental School.

Serving as Maid of Honor was Leigh Anne Costlow, along with bridesmaids Melissa Burch, Lindsey Cook and Jaime Reaume. Madeline Lewis was the flower girl.

Serving as Best Man was Justin Bagdady, along with groomsmen Pete Kobylarek, Vince Slovan and Brian Swift. Chase Sparling was the ring bearer.

The bride wore a strapless, beaded, satin gown designed by Matthew Christopher.

The couple honeymooned on a cruise of the Hawaiian Islands.

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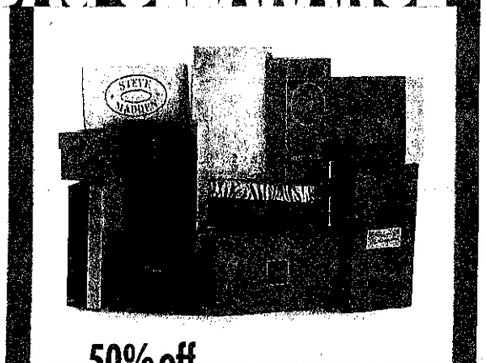

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Local business hosts annual wacky label contest

By Maureen Johnston
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Bob Wilkinson said most people don't notice his wacky label.

Those who do laugh when they read the warning, said the owner of Highland Lakes Laundromat in Northville. The tiny placard emblazoned on Wilkinson's row of oversized commercial washing machines says, "Do not put any person in this washer."

Now, he gets to laugh his way to the bank with a $500 prize in hand.

Last week, the Northville resident earned the cash and accompanying national fame as winner of Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch's 10th annual Wacky Warning Label Contest.

"It's kind of funny," Wilkinson said. "It's unexpected.

"It's kind of a lark."

Not so funny

Wilkinson, 68, said he met the contest creator and fellow Northville resident, Bob Dorigo Jones, two months ago at his laundromat. At that time, the business owner showed Jones, president of the Novi-based consumer watchdog group, his washer label, never anticipating the contest outcome.

The two men chatted about society's increasing tendency toward filing lawsuits, Wilkinson said. Jones told him about the contest Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, M-LAW for short, created in 1997.

"Since then, the company has learned product makers live in constant fear of what will happen if someone gets hurt while using their product and then sues," Jones said. "Why? Because in America's unpredictable legal system, many judges allow personal injury lawyers to file lawsuits on almost any theory -- no matter how ridiculous."

Wilkinson said his personal values line up with Jones' objective, citing a past experience suffering a serious -- albeit unintentional -- injury during a chiropractor's adjustment.

"You know the first thing everybody said? 'Sue him,'" he said. "We're in a sue-happy country and it's wrong.

"I've got to look in the mirror every morning."

Sober warning

When Wilkinson purchased his washing machines, he asked the distributor's representative about the label.

"There's a reason for doing it — the company's protecting itself," he said. "They told me the reason it's on there is a couple of guys got lit up and one of them got in and the other guy turned it on.

"At 200 g-force, if it doesn't kill you, it's going to give you an awful headache."

After 15 years owning the laundromat with his wife, Sandy, Wilkinson said he's seen plenty of odd behavior. But, he said he's not afraid of washing machine fatalities.

"I've had little kids crawl into the dryer, but no one's going to turn the dang thing on," he said.

In the spotlight

Last week, Wilkinson's usual routine chatting with laundromat customers was interrupted by calls from Associated Press and WDIV-TV4 news agencies.

On Jan. 2, the winning labels were selected from a list of finalists by listeners of the Dick Purtan show on Detroit radio station WOMC-FM.

"Jones told me a month ago I was in the top five finalists," Wilkinson said. "My wife got excited I said, 'Don't get excited, we never win anything.'"

A loyal Purtan fan, Wilkinson said he briefly switched from his regular radio station the morning the winner was announced because he wanted to hear a critique of the Michigan football Rose Bowl game. His Southfield accountant called with the news.

"I've listened to Dick Purtan for years," he said. "You drive off the side of the road, it's so funny."

So, Wilkinson was thrilled when the long-time radio personality stopped by the laundromat to congratulate him in person. He said he autographed a copy of Jones' new book, quipping, "Where's my 10 percent?"

"Of 101 contestants, we were just lucky," Wilkinson said.

Maureen Johnston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or via e-mail at mjohnston@gannett.com.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

ABOVE: Northville resident Bob Wilkinson, left, won $500 from the Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch group for noticing the warning on this washing machine: "Do not put any person in this washer." Wilkinson is joined WOMC-FM radio host Dick Purtan, who highlights some of the silly warning labels on his show.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

LEFT: Wilkinson noticed this label on a clothes washer in a Northville laundromat.

#96 Warning Label

The Highland Lakes Laundromat warning label, "Do not put any person in this washer" earned the business a page in Bob Dorigo Jones recently published book, "Remove Child Before Folding: The 101 Stupidest, Silliest, and Wackiest Warning Labels Ever."

Jones compiled entries from the contest his Novi company, Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, has hosted the past 10 years. A sampling of the past winners includes:

- A label on a baby stroller warns: "Remove child" before folding.
- A four-inch-long brass fishing lure with a three-pronged hook on the end warns: "Harmful if swallowed.
- A popular scooter for children warns: "This product moves when used."
- A toilet brush warns: "Do not use for personal hygiene."
- A warning on an electric drill made for carpenters cautions: "This product not intended for use as a dental drill."
- A warning on a bottle of dried bobcat urine used to keep pests away from garden plants: "Not for human consumption."

Examples of lawsuits

Why are wacky warning labels needed? Bob Dorigo Jones, president of Novi-based Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, cites two lawsuits to explain why:

- **"Do not use for flossing":** A few years ago, a man playing basketball caught his teeth in the net while dunking the ball. He sued the family-owned business that made the net claiming he wasn't warned that teeth and basketball nets don't go particularly well together. He walked away with $50,000.
- **"A case of the McShakes":** Everyone in America has heard about the spilled coffee lawsuit against McDonald's. Jones said, but not a separate lawsuit related to a milkshake.

A motorist who wedged between his legs a milkshake he purchased at McDonald's drive-thru window put a burger and fries on the seat next to him and headed back on the road, Jones said. When he leaned over to reach for his fries, he inadvertently squeezed his legs together, squeezing cold shake onto his lap. Stunned, he plowed into the vehicle ahead of him.

Jones said the driver rear-ended sued the driver and McDonald's. The judge dismissed the lawsuit, but denied McDonald's request to be reimbursed for the $10,000 in attorney's fees spent to defend the company against the lawsuit.

Source: www.wackywarnings.com

Wacky warnings

Another Our favorite Warning Label Winner Was a First Place person in this washer. Entered by Bob Wilkinson, Highland Lakes Laundromat.

Second place: Remove child before folding.

Third place: Do not use this product for personal hygiene.

Runner up: Do not use this product for flossing.

Runner up: Do not use this product for dental drill.

Runner up: Do not use this product for human consumption.

Runner up: Do not use this product for personal hygiene.

Runner up: Do not use this product for Shue-Fly Kalayan Mix. Do not use this product for human consumption.

Runner up: Do not use this product for that sale. Do not use this product for Shue-Fly Kalayan Mix. Do not use this product for human consumption.

Runner up: Do not use this product for warning or caution. Do not use this product for your pet. Do not use this product for oven.

-OBITUARIES-

KELLI K. NICHOLS

Age 33, passed away Dec. 31, 2006. Adored mother of Kyle. Beloved daughter of Russ (Gay) and Judy. Dear sister of Heather. Loving granddaughter of Iris Shoner. Services were held last Friday at the 1st Baptist Church of Northville. Arrangements entrusted to Casterline Funeral Home, Inc.

MARY C. MILLER

Age 101, died January 7, 2007. Beloved wife of the late Leo. Loving mother of Mary Ann (Patrick) Mitchell and the late Robert (Carlene). Dear Grandmother of 4 and Great Grandmother of 10. Funeral service Thursday at 11:00 at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River Ave., Novi, 248-348-1800. Memorial donations may be made to the New Hudson United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 803, New Hudson, MI 48165.

Online condolences:
www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY POLICY

The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of $3 a line. Pictures may be published for $35.

*Deadline for obituaries is Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.

For more information, **call 888-999-1288**, or contact your funeral home.

*Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

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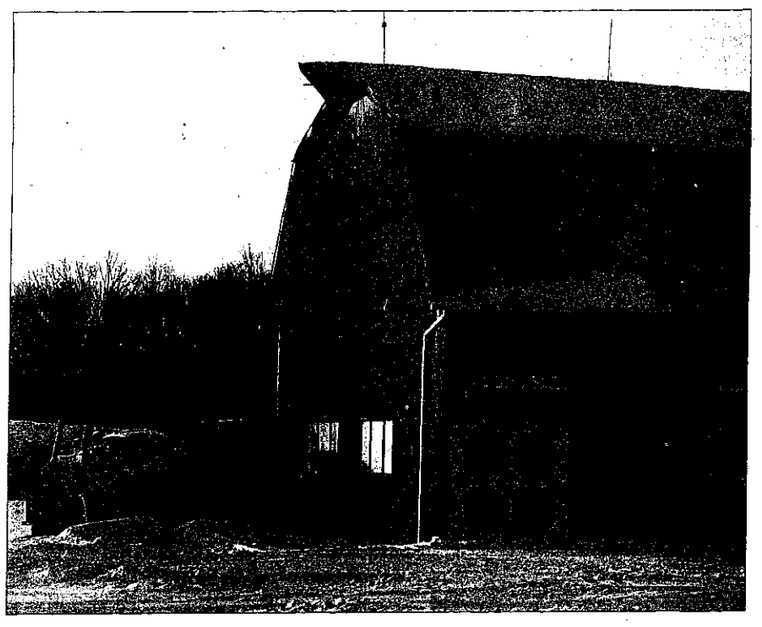
Photo Competition Winners Announced at Exhibit Opening



The Novi Historical Commission announced the winners of its first annual "My Hometown Novi" photo competition at the opening reception for an exhibit of entries received in the year-long contest Jan. 6.

Three awards with cash prizes and an honorary People's Choice award were presented by Kathleen Mutch, chair of the Novi Historical Commission and Commissioners Gary Gudes, Betty Nick and Roy Prentice. The competition was co-sponsored by the Novi News.

Margaret Schmidt won the first place award and $100 for a photograph of her husband Larry Schmidt making maple syrup at their farm against the backdrop of the large-scale homes of the Island Lake subdivision, which surrounds their five-acre property on Wixom Road.

"Photography has been a hobby for most of my life, but this is only the second competition I have ever entered. It was a thrill to win," Schmidt said.

Lois M. Christeller, a resident of Fox Run, earned second place and $50 for her photograph of quilts hanging on a line with one of the distinctive green barns of the Michigan State University Tollgate Education Center in the background and colorful wildflowers in the foreground. She is a member of the Photographic Guild and the Novi Camera Club.

Although she is a veteran of photo competitions, she encouraged others who share her interest in photography to enter this year, pointing out, "You do not have to be an advanced amateur to participate or to win."

Mark Adler received the third place award and $25 for his entry featuring a barn and rusting antique fire truck which can be seen by those traveling Beck Road between Ten Mile and Grand River roads. "Things are changing so quickly in Novi," Adler said. "As a photographer, I try to capture such change, documenting it for myself and posterity. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to participate in a competition that has community as its focus."

The three winners were selected independently, but unanimously, by judges Marsha Valenti, a professional photographer with more than 20 years of teaching and professional photographic experience, and Phil Jerome, former editor of the Novi News.

Before the awards were announced, those attending the opening reception were able to view all entries and then cast a ballot for a "People's Choice" award. The winner of this honorary designation was Mark Adler for the photograph that had won him third place honors.

Historical Commissioner Roy Prentice said that he was pleased with the participation and variety of entries submitted adding, "We hope to be even more successful next year with more entrants and more entries."

Fellow Commissioner Betty Nick encourages everyone to visit the exhibit, "Come see what fellow residents submitted this year and enter your own vision of Novi in the 2007 photo competition."

"The contest showed me that there are a lot of interesting things to see and shoot in Novi," said Commissioner Gary Gudes.

The exhibit of this year's entries can be viewed at the Civic Center during normal business hours through the month of January. Information about the 2007 competition will be on the City of Novi Web site, www.cityofnovi.org.

SAVVY SENIOR

Macular Degeneration: What you should know

Dear Savvy Senior,

What can you tell me about age-related macular degeneration? My mother had it before she died, and now at age 63, I'm worried I may get it too.

Nearsighted Nancy

Dear Nancy,

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of vision loss in older Americans affecting nearly 2 million people - but the good news is new treatments are now available. Here's what you should know.

AMD

AMD is a progressive eye disease that gradually diminishes the central (not peripheral) vision you need for straight-ahead activities like reading, driving or watching television. It does not cause total blindness.

There are two forms of AMD - wet and dry. Approximately 85 percent of all people that have it have the dry form, while about 15 percent have wet AMD. As the name suggests, age-related macular degeneration is most common in people over the age of 60. Other factors that can increase the risk include smoking, high blood pressure, excessive exposure to sunlight and having a family history of the disease. Women and Caucasians also have a greater chance of getting AMD, as well as people with lighter-colored eyes.

Get Tested

If you're over the age of 50, it's a smart idea to get your eyes examined by an ophthalmologist every two years. They can spot early signs of AMD before vision loss occurs. Early symptoms however may include blank, gray, hazy or blurry spots in your central vision making it difficult to read especially in low lighting. For wet AMD the classic early symptom is that straight lines appear wavy. A good tool to check your eyes for AMD is the Amsler Grid at www.preventblindness.org - click on "test your eyes."

Wet AMD Treatments

The treatment of AMD has changed rapidly over the past few years, and new potential treatments continue to be tested and developed. For wet AMD, the most affective treatment is a new drug called Lucentis (www.lucentis.com), which stops vision loss and may even restore it. The downside however is it costs more than $1,000 per shot but Medicare typically covers 80 percent. Avastin, a much cheaper drug (about $50 per shot) currently approved for colorectal cancer, is being used by many doctors and may work just as well as Lucentis. The medication is injected into the eye, often once a month over the course of many months. Other treatment options include the drug Macugen, laser surgery and photodynamic therapy.

Dry AMD Treatments

While there's currently no cure for dry AMD (several treatments are currently being tested in clinical trials), there are some things you can do to slow down and possibly prevent its progression, including:

• Eating healthy: Studies suggest that eating antioxidant-rich foods such as fresh fruits, dark green leafy vegetables and at least one serving of fish a week may delay or reduce the severity.

• Taking vitamins: The AREDS study done by the National Eye Institute found that taking a combination of vitamin supplements each day may slow down the progression of AMD. The AREDS formula includes 25,000 international units (IU) beta carotene (only recommended for nonsmokers), 500 milligrams (mg) vitamin C, 400 IU vitamin E, 80 mg zinc and two mg copper. A number of drug stores, supermarkets and health food stores sell this combination in pill form. Other studies suggest that AMD may be slowed by taking lutein and omega-3 fatty acid supplements.

Other Tips

There's also a variety of lifestyle changes that can help prevent or delay wet and dry AMD, especially if you're high risk, including:

• Not smoking. Avoid second-hand smoke too.

• Exercising: Regular physical activity can help fend off wet AMD.

• Controlling your blood pressure: it's not just a good idea for your heart, it's good for your eyes, too.

• Protecting your eyes: Wear sunglasses that block 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB rays.

Resources

For more information on AMD visit the National Eye Institute at www.nei.nih.gov. Also see www.macular.org or www.amd.org. If you already have vision loss from AMD, vision rehabilitation programs can be very helpful. See www.visionconnection.org or call 800-829-0500 to find services in your area.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit www.savvysenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" books.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Healthy approach!

Geanne Geraghty, right, teaches a yoga class at Novi's Providence Hospital Assarian Cancer Center. Classes are $10 per session and held 12:30-1:30 p.m. Monday and Friday. For more information, call (248) 465-5455.

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CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF PROVISION OF THE SNOW EMERGENCY ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 33, Article III, Division 5, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, a snow emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever: (1) freezing rain, sleet or four (4) or more inches of snow has been forecast for the area by a newspaper circulated in the city, or by a radio or television station with a normal operating range covering the city; or (2) freezing rains or sleet has fallen or four (4) or more inches of snow have accumulated in the city.

Whenever any vehicle without an operator is found parked or left in violation of any provision of this division, the Director of the Department of Public Services, or his designee, or the Police Department may immediately remove the vehicle or cause the vehicle to be removed to a place of safekeeping at the expense of the registered owner of the vehicle.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 33, Article III, Division 5, of the Code of Ordinance, City of Novi, Michigan, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

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Polish pride

Super Saturdays kicks off with Polish Day

By Tracy Mishler
SPECIAL WRITER

Lillian Greka enjoys satisfying her palate with all her Polish favorites.

The 76-year-old Meadowbrook Commons resident said she and her husband, Lou, are Polish through and through and would never miss a chance to sit down to a meal representing their heritage.

The couple is anticipating the third annual Polish Day celebration at the Novi Senior Center, and they can't wait to feast on all their favorite dishes.

"I used to make all the Polish favorites," Greka said. "Both (Lou and I) have been exposed to Polish food all our lives, and this way we can look back and remember everything we loved."

With dancing and singing, good food and friends, Greka said she hasn't missed a single Polish Day celebration yet.

"For me, it's just about fun times," she said. "And with Polish Day being on a Saturday, my husband doesn't have to work and can join me."

Polish Day, part of the Novi Senior Center's Super Saturday events, is sold out for the third straight year.

"The weekdays are always busy," said Rachel Zagaroli, senior services manager. "But there is not much to do on the weekends, especially in the dreary months of winter."

For only $6 per person, per event, both Novi residents and non-residents can spend their Saturday evenings with friends, being entertained and enjoying a home-cooked meal.

"Having Super Saturdays on the weekend, we can reach our seniors who are still working," Zagaroli said. "It's a good way to get out of the winter doldrums, especially after the hustle and bustle of the holidays."

Let the fun begin

The Novi Senior Center's Super Saturdays kicks off with Polish Day 4 p.m. Saturday and will continue with other events, including a spaghetti dinner in February and a pizza party in March.

But Zagaroli said Polish Day is one of their more popular events, and more than 120 people will enjoy sauerkraut and kielbasa and the sounds of the Kielbasa Kings, a Dearborn-based polka band who entertain crowds in both Polish and English.

> **"For me, it's just about fun times. And with Polish Day being on a Saturday, my husband doesn't have to work and can join me."**
>
> *Lillian Greka*
> *Resident, Novi*

"There isn't a single person who hasn't gone to a wedding and not done the polka," Zagaroli said. "We've all got a little Polish in us."

Greka said she and her husband will definitely be up dancing.

"We used to love to do the polka," Greka said. "We do very little dancing now, but we try."

More to come

Zagaroli said she'd like to add more events to the Super Saturday roster in the future.

"As time goes by and the demand grows, more events will be planned," she said. "It's like a Saturday night date.

"And we definitely need to expand the program for our baby boomers and find out what they are interested in."

Zagaroli said the idea of Super Saturdays is getting out of the house to come and enjoy the fun with friends.

"The special tie is coming together," she said. "(The seniors) know they're in a safe and secure environment.

"It's almost like being with family."

Tracy Mishler is a freelance reporter for the Novi News.

■ Super Saturday fun

• Polish Day
Date/time: 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20
Price: $8

• Spaghetti Dinner
Date/time: 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24
Price: $6

• Pizza Party
Date/time: 4 p.m. Saturday, March 17
Price: $6

Anyone interested in attending a Super Saturday event at the Novi Senior Center must register in advance. No tickets may be purchased at the door.

For more information, contact the Novi Senior Center at (248) 347-0414.

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OPINION & LETTERS

Novi News

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

OUR OPINION

Use The Survey Results Wisely

We finally have the much anticipated results of Novi's community survey.

There's a lot of facts and figures, supported by a pile of documents. What it all boils down to is simple: Traffic is the No. 1 concern — by far. And for the most part, people like living here.

Stop the presses.

This isn't exactly earth-shattering information. Novi has long been considered one of the most livable, comfortable places in Metro Detroit. And traffic is one of the top concerns in nearly every community across the country.

The real questions are: What does all of this mean, and what do city officials do next?

The first step is determining what the results actually say about Novi. For example, City Manager Clay Pearson is considering convening resident-driven focus groups to get a better sense of where and how traffic is a problem, as well as getting inside the other concerns the survey raised.

Next, and most critical, is plotting a strategy and implementing it. Pearson is on the right track when he said city officials will use the results to determine priorities for the next budget session.

Using citizen feedback to influence the power of the purse is a smart move.

But as with any data collection, it often raises as many questions as it provide answers.

Novi officials should not view the survey results as not an end of the project. Rather, this is the beginning of truly getting in touch with the wants and needs of a growing, nomadic population that is getting more diverse every day.

Do this survey again. Maybe try it in 2008 when plenty of new residents will have moved in. Or perhaps, look at focus groups or conduct in-depth interviews.

The bottom line: Stay connected. Use the data wisely. And most importantly, make solid decisions that will continue to chart a path of progress for Novi.

As Pearson put it, "We've got some follow-up work."

News Sources

What's your story, Novi?

We're looking for you! The Novi News is currently looking to interview local residents regarding the following topics:

- Are you a high school student who receives an allowance from your parents?
- Are you a high school student who has an interesting job?
- Are you a Novi senior citizen with an interesting job or hobby?
- Are you a woman who has recently returned to work?
- Are you a Novi resident interested in sharing a story about how your religious faith has carried you through tough times?
- During the past six months, have you moved into a newly constructed home?
- Do you spend more than $100 per week on gasoline?
- Are you a single parent?
- Has your home been for sale for more than one year?
- Is there something specific about Novi you would change, update or eliminate?
- Are you planning a unique party or family get-together?
- Is there someone on your street who needs a helping hand?

Contact Novi News editor David Aguilar at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102, or via e-mail at daguilar@gannett.com.

A new beginning!

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Demolition has already begun on the renovation of Novi's Fountain Walk mall.

Changes are in store for Foutain Walk tenants such as Dick's Sporting Goods on the mall's north side.

■ What do you think?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Letters to the Editor, David Aguilar, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. Fax: (248) 349-9832. E-mail: daguilar@gannett.com. **Letters submission deadline is 5 p.m. Monday.**

Guest Column: Tom Watkins

China's 'Great Leap Forward' — Buying Chrysler?

News was made when the long rumored alliance between Daimler-Chrysler was inked with Chery Automotive Company of China to produce a new small car that would be made in China and marketed around the world. The deal still must be approved by the Chinese government and the supervisory board of Chrysler. If the deal is approved by both sides, it would be another "Great Leap Forward" for the Chinese to penetrate the developed markets on a global stage.

Tom Watkins

Compared to the "Big Fish" — the established automakers — Chery Automotive is a guppy. Based in Wuhu, China, it was formed in 1997 and is owned by the government of Anhui Province. The "Big Fish" of Chrysler was founded in 1925 as a private company in Detroit. Today, Daimler-Chrysler is one of the world's leading automotive companies and employs more than 100,000 people around the world.

Guppies grow up. Chery Automotive has the capacity to produce 350,000 vehicles a year (up from a modest 189,158 vehicles in 2005) and expects that number to increase to 600,000 by 2008. It has exported more than 25,000 cars this year to 30 mostly-developing nations and is looking to expand its global reach.

The rise of the Chinese auto industry has paralleled the double-digit economic growth of the nation since Deng Xiaoping, China's leader during the 1980s, opened the country to the world. When I first traveled to China in 1989, the dominant means of transportation for the 1.3 billion people was the "you can have any color, as long as it is black" Flying Pigeon bike. Today, China is the world's third largest auto market. This is an amazing accomplishment when you consider private ownership of cars was not even permitted until the 1990s.

Now, the Rest of the Story

What if the real story is not that Chrysler is buying a new subcompact they say they cannot make profitably in the U.S., but the beginning of a Chinese Auto Company process to acquire a major U.S. auto manufacturer? What if the impossible isn't?

The home company of Daimler-Chrysler is certainly nervous about Chrysler's rapidly plunging losses of billions of dollars in the North American market over the past year and the excess inventory building up on dealer's lots and spilling over into parking lots at the metro airport. There is fear and speculation in Germany that Chrysler's problems could sink the Daimler-Chrysler mothership. Bodo Uebber, Daimler-Chrysler's CFO, exacerbated speculation when he told Wall Street analysts in 2006, "I am not ruling anything out" in response to questions about unloading Chrysler. Chrysler is disproportionately dependent on the North American market where it sells 90 percent of its cars and it is dragging down Daimler-Chrysler's value.

Could Chrysler Be Chery Picked?

The Chinese have been on a global buying spree and will continue to seek opportunities to invest the trillion dollars it has accumulated in trade imbalances. China's economy is growing at a rate in excess of three times the U.S. economy and the cash is burning a hole in their pocket while they look for a place to invest.

Would such a move set off the same bipartisan maelstrom as China's state-owned China National Oil Company Corporation's (CNOOC) bid to buy to buy an American Oil Company, UNOCAL Corporation, did in 2005?

Clearly, with the Democrats taking over the reigns of Congress and the growing apprehension of China's economic surge, it would raise the nation's collective eyebrows.

However, such a purchase could:

- Provide China with a world-wide recognizable brand, something they do not have in any major sector today;
- Create an instant Chinese presence in the United States;
- Create a distribution system through the Chrysler Dealerships which would help struggling dealers, many that may go under without new product to distribute;
- Provide the Chinese with much needed research, development and technology;
- Provide the management expertise so the Chinese can navigate the costly and tough process of meeting safety and emissions standards in the U.S.;
- Provide a way for Daimler-Chrysler to dump Chrysler at a good return to its shareholders; and
- Perhaps preserve much needed high paying auto jobs for more than 100,000 American workers.

Certainly, the top brass at Daimler-Chrysler in both Auburn Hills, Michigan and Stuttgart, Germany will vehemently deny any such talk. However, they dismissed speculation that they were planning to import a Chinese car to the U.S. market, a "speculation" that appears to be a reality today.

In the "world is flat" global competitive auto market, is the unthinkable not possible? Gulp!

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-05. He has a long standing interest in China and has traveled there many times. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

COMMENT

David Aguilar, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 102 daguilar@gannett.com

Focus on leadership — not partisan politics

Back in 1975, along with some other Michigan folks, I was invited to visit Jerry Ford at the White House. Those were the days when some of us in the media were still getting used to calling the regular guy we'd known as Jerry "President Ford." Even "Gerald Ford" seemed a bit formal and strange.

Phil Power
Political Columnist

I had known Ford — slightly — when I had run the Washington office of another Michigan congressman in the mid-1960s. And by the time the '70s rolled around, I was the publisher of a bunch of newspapers.

Why was I invited? I always figured Jerald terHorst, the Detroit News political writer who was for a brief time Ford's press secretary, put me on the guest list. And I likely stayed on because, well, it's always prudent to be nice to newspaper publishers from your home state.

As we talked back and forth, I reflected that Ford as President was exactly as I had known him as a member of Congress. Solid. Direct. Straightforward. He was much brighter than the comedians made him out to be. He had perfected the masterful art of fiddling with his pipe to give him time to reflect on a question. I've met a fair number of Presidents over the years, but Ford's down-home demeanor in the White House was the least pompous of them all.

Ford's reputation as a President has steadily grown since the days when he sent his ratings plunging and made a lot of folks very angry when he granted a full pardon to former President Nixon, one month into his administration.

But what was castigated as a cynical political deal back then has come to be regarded in the fullness of time as a vital step in ending the long national nightmare of Watergate.

Make no mistake about it — Ford was a staunch conservative Republican partisan. But he was a man who saw opponents as adversaries, not enemies. Richard Norton Smith, former head of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, put it this way: "In contrast to today, certainly President Ford never confused compromise with surrender, or moderation with weakness. And while he had adversaries, he was convinced that he never had an enemy."

That quality, one of sane moderation — and the profound lack of this essential quality in today's political environment — is, I am convinced, what lay behind the extraordinary outpouring of respect and affection that accompanied his death and funeral last week in Grand Rapids.

The ability to disagree respectfully is a quality that was once the core of our political system. And it's a quality that has been very sadly largely lost in the scorched-earth partisanship of today.

Few know this better than former congressman and state senator, Joe Schwarz, a moderate Republican from Battle Creek. "The outpouring of affection for Jerry Ford comes from the fact that the three-quarters of Americans who do not identify themselves as hard left or hard right are weary of the hyper-partisanship that has been the order of the day in Washington and in Michigan.

"Jerry Ford could take an idea and dispassionately evaluate it — whether it came from a Republican, Democratic or Independent — to see whether it worked. He didn't care about the ideology. He only cared about whether it worked," Schwarz told me.

Last summer, Schwarz, a man with impressive military, professional and intellectual credentials was defeated in the Republican primary by a hard right former preacher. That, he noted is a graphic example of the sea change that has happened in Michigan politics since 1980.

"Both Jerry Ford and Bill Milliken (governor 1969-1983) two of our most effective political leaders over the past half century, would be toast today if they tried to run in a Republican primary election," he noted.

Today's Republicans hold everyone to a set of rigid litmus tests, he noted. What if someone concludes that they are in favor of any of these things:

Affirmative action in university admissions. Embryonic stem cell research. Tolerance for gay couples.? What if a Republican is skeptical that abortion is always wrong?

Then, the former congressman, Navy officer and CIA agent said, forget it. "The Republican Party has concluded that each of these issues is an absolute disqualification in running for office, not trigger points for reasonable discussion."

And he added, "It's going to hurt the party if it has any hope of breaking out of the hard-right trap it's in."

I agree. Last November's elections clearly represented something more than discontent with an unpopular Republican President and a failing war. The turnout among moderates and Independents was enormous, a rejection of the kind of harsh partisanship that has infested our politics and, maybe, a yearning for something more sensible, for common ground.

And I think the ground may be shifting.

Over the past couple of weeks, I've talked with a fair number of political leaders in Lansing. The change in climate is remarkable. Gov. Jennifer Granholm is thinking hard about working with the legislature to resolve the state's current budget crisis, recognizing she can't do it alone. New Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, D-Redford, wants to discuss policy, not how to screw the opposition. And new Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, is excited about trying to find ways for "legislators who want to do the right thing actually to do it."

Hopefully, the healing quality President Ford represented during his life can inspire and nourish our politics after his death.

His memory — and we here today — deserve no less.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1999. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@licnnet.com.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

-First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

■ Letters to the Editor

We welcome your comments regarding editorials, columns and other topics discussed in the Novi News. Only submissions arriving by 5 p.m. Monday and including the author's full name, address and day and evening phone numbers — for verification by the Novi News — will be considered for publication.

Letters to the editor of 400 or fewer words have the best chance of being published. All submissions may be edited for length, accuracy and clarity. Letters to the editor, opinion and editorial columns, and articles submitted to the Novi News, may be published or distributed in print, electronic or other forms.

Mail Letters to the Editor to: David Aguilar, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. **Fax:** (248) 349-9832. **E-mail:** daguilar@gannett.com.

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SPOTLIGHT ON
ALLERGY & ASTHMA
Presented by
Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.

ASTHMA AND TEENS

Adolescence is a difficult time. Children often have mixed feelings about gaining independence, changing bodies, and relationships. For a child with asthma, there is one more thing to worry about—keeping asthma symptoms in check while not appearing too "different." Because kids can be hesitant to take medication in front of their friends, some will rely on quick-relief inhalers instead of daily medicine. That can be dangerous, so talk with your teen about taking daily medications. Also talk with the doctor to see if the teen can take medication in the morning or at night without peers around. Involve your teen in his or her care as much as possible, and watch out for any signs of anxiety or depression.

For medical treatment and advice for your allergy and asthma condition, contact the ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN. We diagnose and treat patients of all ages. Some day, early morning, evening, and Saturday appointments are available. For further information, call (248) 473-6400. Our office is located at 24410 Meadowbrook Road, STE 201, Novi. New patients are welcome. "The Caring Allergist Who Gets Results."

PS. Many teens want to deny that they have asthma. Use your child's peak flow meter to check on asthma symptoms, and use it as the last word in determining medication.

ALLERGY & ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN
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WHAT'S GOING ON, NOVI?

Novi's Official Events Calendar • For a complete local events calendar, visit www.novinews.com.

EVENTS

Lakes Area Optimist Club Essay Contest
DETAILS: Area students are encouraged to submit essays based on the theme, "I Want to Make a Difference Because...," for the 2007 Optimist International Essay Contest. Winners will receive local recognition, and the essays will be sent to compete at the district level. College scholarships are available to top winners at district and international levels.
CONTACT: Kevin Terry, (248) 345-6437

American Association of University Women Luncheon
DATE: Saturday, Jan. 13
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College, Livonia
DETAILS: The Northville/Novi Chapter of the AAUW will hold its New Year Luncheon with a presentation by Dr. Craig Roney on the art of family storytelling. The deadline for reservations is Jan. 8, and the cost is $23 per person.
CONTACT: Beth Ann, (248) 305-8992

Classes for Women New to the Area
DATE: Beginning, Wednesday, Jan. 17
TIME: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Oak Pointe Church, 50200 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: The class will be studying "After the Boxes are Unpacked." Child care is available for a small charge, and material costs for the book and workbook are $25.
CONTACT: Gail Paulus, (248) 912-0043 or e-mail to gail@oakpointe.org

Free Homebuyers Workshop
DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 17
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville Library
DETAILS: This seminar can provide answers to all of your questions about the home buying process, including financing, efficient house hunting, negotiating and closing. Please call to register.
CONTACT: (800) 774-4377, or e-mail brettphillips.com

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Preschool Fair
DATE: Saturday, Jan. 20
TIME: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Atrium
DETAILS: All adults and children of the community welcome. Familiarize yourself with all of the early childhood programs offered.

Preschool Open House
DATE: Saturday, Jan. 27
TIME: 10 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Novi Co-op Preschool, located at Novi United MethodistChurch, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: The preschool is currently enrolling 2, 3, and 4 year old children for the 2007/2008 school year. Teachers will be available to answer questions and children are welcome.
CONTACT: (248) 349-3223 or visit www.NoviPreschool.com

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Saturday, Jan. 13
TIME: 9 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

City of Novi State of the City Address
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 25
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Cost is $20 per person. R.S.V.P. by Jan. 19.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0445

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 6
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi School Board Meeting
DATE: Tonight
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Deerfield Elementary

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The chamber is celebrating 40 years of business, representing over 500 members. Our mission is to be a responsible, proactive advocate of business interests in the greater Novi area. We are business and professional people working together to enhance the life of our community and the businesses in it. For more information, visit www.novichamber.com or contact the chamber office at (248) 349-3743

40th Anniversary 2007 Board Installation Luncheon
DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 17
TIME: noon
LOCATION: Fox Run, 41000 Thirteen Mile Road
DETAILS: The special guest speaker will be David Brandon, Chairman and CEO of Domino's Pizza, Inc. The cost is $10 for members, and $15 for nonmembers. Please RSVP by 11:30 a.m., Jan. 17.

GREATER NOVI CHAMBER

The Greater Novi Chamber is a nonprofit business association. We provide enjoyable networking opportunities for our members; act as a bridge between local business and government; help businesses stay aware of other member's services and products and the activities of their community. For more information, contact: Whitney McClellan, executive director, at (248) 347-4622 or wmgncc@yahoo.com

Economic Forecast Luncheon
DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 10
TIME: 11:30 a.m. registration; noon lunch
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel
DETAILS: Member Lotus Bank will be hosting and has invited a special speaker to discuss the economy. RSVP requested.

B2B Breakfast
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 18
TIME: 7:45 a.m. sign-in; 8:15 Breakfast
LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace
DETAILS: Guests will be from the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau to discuss what they can do to assist in bringing more visitors and conventions to our area. The cost is $5 for members, and $10 for nonmembers. RSVP by Jan. 15.

Save-the-Dates
Feb. 7: Business Accelerator Luncheon and Member Thank-You
Feb. 14: Breakfast at Suburban Shared Center
Feb. 22: Business Accelerator After Hours
Mar. 8: Business Accelerator Luncheon with Dennis Archer

LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, servicing the communities of Commerce Township, Union Lake, Walled Lake, Waterford, Wixom, Wolverine Lake and White Lake. Our purpose is to improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in the Lakes area. We act as a united voice on behalf of the business community, provide a forum to discuss and review topics of interest, serve as a source of information and develop programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.
CONTACT: (248) 628-2826

Morning Connection
TIME/DATE: 8:30-9:30 a.m., Jan. 24
LOCATION: JB Therapuetic & Sports Massage, and Gordon P. Smith DDs, 3255 W. Maple Road, Wixom
DETAILS: Meet for this early networking opportunity. Call the Chamber office to register.

Evening Connection
TIME/DATE: 5-7 p.m. Feb. 1
LOCATION: Tribute at Wixom Village Center, 148 Center Blvd., Wixom
DETAILS: Stop by after work and enjoy this free event.

BUSINESS

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group
TIME/DATE: 8-9:30 a.m. Third Thursday of every month
LOCATION: Walsh College, Troy Campus
DETAILS: Walsh Business Leadership Institute invites women who own, are partners in, or work for family businesses. Items discussed will be common issues, and women can share solutions in a nonthreatening, noncompetitive, non-sales roundtable. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Jan Hubbard, e-mail jhubbard@walshcollege.edu

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Healing Arts
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

WANTED-ART WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS
DETAILS: We are looking for people who have an art or craft that they would like to share in our series of one-time workshops. Please call (248) 465-5455 if interested.

Story Teller Dolls
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16; 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Jan. 30
DETAILS: This is a two-part workshop in the ceramics studio. You will create a Story Teller Doll in the first session and paint the doll in the second session. There is a $10 fee per session. Call to register.

Learn to Paint
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-noon, Thursday, Jan. 25
DETAILS: This is a six-week series of classes for beginner to intermediate painters. Artist Rita Antos will instruct in the use of acrylics and watercolors. There is a $5 materials fee.

Simple Photography Tips
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, Feb. 7
DETAILS: Participants will learn about photocomposition, lighting, cropping, posing candid shots and more. The workshop will be taught by professional photographers from Focal Point Studios. Bring your camera to class. There is a $5 materials fee.

Colored Pencil Workshop
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
DETAILS: The cost is $2. Beginners are welcome.

Ceramics Class
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; 1-5 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: There is a $10 materials fee.

Knittin' Yarns
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: Join others and create hats and shawls for those in need.

Tai Chi Class
TIME/DATE: 10:15-11 a.m. Thursday
DETAILS: This is an ancient Chinese exercise used to improve flexibility, balance and strength. No experience is necessary. The cost is $5.

Yoga Classes
TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday (for backs); 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday (for strength & endurance); 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m Wednesday (for backs); 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday (for backs)
DETAILS: The cost is $10 for walk-in; $80 for 10-class card and $70 for seven-week evening session. Preregistration required.

Massage
TIME/DATE: Various times, Monday and Thursday
DETAILS: Therapeutic massage is shown to be effective for stress and tension, chronic fatigue, pain and headaches. Everyone is welcome. Patients undergoing treatment should bring a physician's referral. Call for an appointment. The cost is $50 for a 50-minute session.

Line Dancing
DATE: Monday and Friday, ongoing
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
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.

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
Note: The Library will be closed Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Story Times
DETAILS: Session 3 Preschool Story Times, Jan. 8-Feb.9. Brochures available in the library for further information.

Starlight Story Time
DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 16
TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Pre-schoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration required.

Pageturners
DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 17
TIME: 4:30-5:15 p.m.
DETAILS: The book discussion group for fifth-and-sixth graders will enjoy popcorn and a movie. No registration required.

Library Board Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 17
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, City Council Chambers

Novi Knitters
DATE: Monday, Jan. 22
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
DETAILS: This is an informal knitting group that meets in the youth area of the library most second and fourth Mondays of the month. Children, teens, and adults of all knitting levels are welcome. Woolgatherers Knitting Guild member will be in attendance at most sessions to answer knitting questions.

Snack Tales
DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 24
TIME: 7-7:45 p.m.
DETAILS: Stories and cooking projects for children in Kindergarten through third grade. Please call to register.

Lego Club
DATE: Monday, Jan. 29
TIME: 6-7 p.m.
DETAILS: This is the once-a-month Lego show-and-tell, building activities, and swap time for children in Kindergarten through fourth grade. The Library supplies the Legos. Registration is not required.

Walled Lake City Libray
LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
CONTACT: (248) 624-3772

Old Time Radio Revisited
DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 23
TIME: 7 p.m.
DETAILS: This 90-minute program will focus on the golden age of radio. Free CD's and MP3 discs with old time radio programs will be available. The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Registration is necessary by calling the library.

NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Friday
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m. *Duplicate Bridge
12:45 p.m.: Bingo
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Monday
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Senior Center & Transportation Closed

Tuesday
8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread
9-11 a.m.: *Line Dance-Intermediate
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
10-noon: Spinal Health Screening, Dr. Kintz
noon: Lunch
1 p.m.: Bingo
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment

Wednesday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
11 a.m.: Blood Pressure
11 a.m.:Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
11:30 a.m.: *Clogging
noon: Lunch
1-3 p.m.: Game Day
1:30-3 p.m.: Writers Workshop
2-2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment
6:30 p.m.: *Clogging (Beg./Easy/Int.)
7:30 p.m.: *Clogging Club

Thursday
9:30 a.m.: Travel Meeting
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: *Line Dance (Beginning)
noon: Lunch
12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge
2 and 2:30 p.m.: Massage by appointment
2:30-3:30 p.m.: Line Dance
* Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-0414.

continued on 13A

Get your kicks!

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Grandmaster Kwang Jo Choi demonstrates kicks for black-belt instructors during his visit to Novi's Choi Kwang Do Academy.

Grandmaster Kwang Jo Choi, center, visits Novi's Choi Kwang Do Academy last week to teach elite instructors martial arts. Back row, from left: Anthony DiCarlo, Michael Ayerst and Gary Collins (all first degree black belts), and Scott Gseca, fifth degree black belt. Front row: Erin Herman, fourth degree, Master Choi, and Valerie Collins, first degree.

Ultimate cover shot

Novi resident now a fishing poster child

It's official.

Kim Stricker, professional bass angler and owner of Stricker Paints in Novi, landed a cover shot on the event poster for Michigan's biggest pure fishing show.

The Ultimate Fishing Show – Detroit opens Friday at Rock Financial Showplace and runs through Monday, Jan. 15.

Making "cover boy" is a sign of Stricker's growing reputation on the highly competitive bass fishing tournament circuits. He's shown holding a whopper smallmouth bass, his favorite species.

At the Ultimate Fishing Show, the angling expert will give daily multi-media seminars using footage from his new DVD "Smallmouth Neighborhood," as well as footage from an upcoming TV show called "Hook 'N Look."

"We look at the underwater world through the fish's eye," Stricker said, who is a videographer and certified scuba diver. "We cover forage, structure, temperature and thermoclines in our goal of educating the public to be better fishermen."

■ Meet Kim Stricker

Kim Stricker, professional bass angler and owner of Stricker Paints in Novi, will be at The Ultimate Fishing Show – Detroit opening Friday at Rock Financial Showplace and runs through Monday, Jan. 15. Stricker will give seminars 5 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday and 12 p.m. Monday.

For the full seminar schedule and more details, go to www.UltimateFishingShowDetroit.com or call 800-328-6550.

The Howell native said his new show will air on the Versus Network (formerly the Outdoor Life Network) beginning in January, 2008.

Stricker, 54, fishes about 150 days annually and this year will compete in two tournament circuits – the Wal-Mart FLW Tour and the FLW Series. The tournaments will be held on huge lakes and reservoirs in Texas, Tennessee, North Carolina, Arkansas, Florida, New York, Alabama and the Detroit River/Lake St. Clair.

After 20 years of competing, Stricker knows many of the waters well.

He's also closing in on $400,000 in lifetime earnings.

Last August, he placed 12th out of 48 top bass anglers invited to compete for the national championship on Logan Martin Reservoir in Alabama.

At the Ultimate Fishing Show at Rock Financial Showplace, Stricker will join 30 other experts, including Kalamazoo's Kevin Van Dam, winner of more than $2 million in tournament earnings.

More than 100 fishing seminars – all free with admission – will occur on five stages at the Novi event, including Lake Ultimate, an indoor lake that holds 110,000 gallons of water.

So, who's minding Stricker Paints, which celebrates 50 years of business in 2007, while Stricker is out fishing and giving seminars?

"My 25-year-old son, Danny," Stricker said. "That is, when he isn't helping me dive and get footage for the TV show."

This article was submitted by Tom Huggler, publicist for the Ultimate Fishing Show – Detroit.

WHAT'S GOING ON? (CONT'D)

continued from 12A

SUPPORT GROUPS

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Road
DETAILS: This informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. There is no charge. Child care is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy, (248) 334-3595

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op
DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
CONTACT: Sue Tracz, (248) 380-0998.

Friendship Circle
DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Beck Road
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Norbert Monson, (248) 851-6730, Florence Voight, (248) 477-3032 or Joy Iovaldi, (248) 348-9138, joyiovaldi@earthlink.net

MOMS Club of Novi
DATE: First Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children or work out of their homes.
CONTACT: jensunglleming@yahoo.com

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples
DATES: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Witch's Hat Depot, 300 Dorothy St., South Lyon.
DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school conference are all welcome.
CONTACT: For more information, (248) 437-5496.

Women's Prayer Support
DATE: Saturday, ongoing
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy or Susan, (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

Breast Cancer Support Group
DATES: Second and fourth Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration needed.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Crohn's & Colitis Support Group
DATES: First and third Wednesdays of each month
LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital and Medical Center
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Enter facility through southeast entrance. Meeting in Conference Room A, immediately to the left.
CONTACT: For more information call Al Biggs (313) 805-7605, or Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, (888) 737-2322.

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 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
TIME/DAYS: Wednesdays, 11 a.m., weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road, Novi
DETAILS: $24 per annual membership includes handbook; $1 per meeting. New members welcome.
CONTACT: Rebecca Boyke,(248) 305-8646

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational
LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: Rev. Ed Willingham, Interim Minister, (248) 348-7757, or visit www.mbccc.org or gmccc@aroundtheroit.biz
Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.

continued on 14A

Sciatica?

Suburban Detroit - A new free report has recently been released that reveals an amazing new medical breakthrough that has proven 86% successful treating debilitating back pain. Even with multiple herniated discs. Find out how space travel solved astronauts back pain treatment today. For your free report entitled, ***"How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!"*** call 1-800-469-3618 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message for all the details. If phone lines are busy, visit: **www.midischerniation.com**

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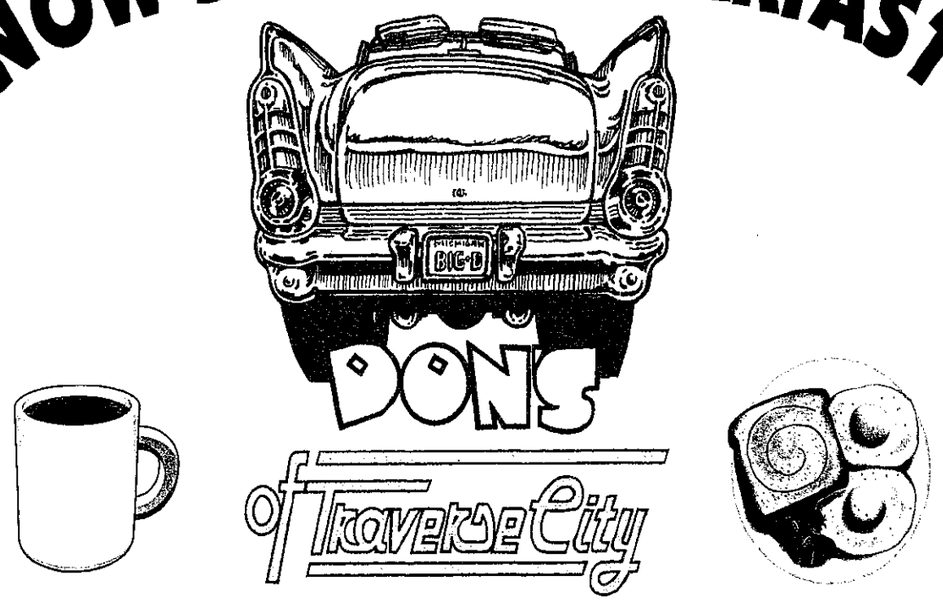

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What's Going On? (cont'd)

continued from 13A

First Baptist Church of Novi
LOCATION: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-3647 or www.firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org
Sunday Schedule
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m., the fourth Sunday of every month.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:45 and 10 a.m.,
Sunday School
TIME: 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship Center for ages 3-7; 10 a.m. All ages
Lunch Hour Worship
TIME/DAY: 12:10-12:50 p.m., Wednesday, ongoing
DETAILS: The service will include scripture and Holy Communion.
Youth Worship
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., second and fourth Sunday of every month
DETAILS: All youth welcome.
Alzheimer's Support Group
DATE: Saturdays
TIME: 10 a.m
DETAILS: This group will meet on the second Saturday of each month, offering support and open discussion for all those dealing with Alzheimer's.

Holy Family
LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org
Bible Study
DATE: Thursdays
TIME: 10 a.m., and 7 p.m.
DETAILS: Join the group for prayer, sharing, and discussion of the Sunday scripture readings.
CONTACT: Maria, (248) 349-8847, or e-mail at spiritwalker001@aol.com
Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month, ongoing
TIME: 10-11 a.m.
DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy, (248) 334-3595
Catholic Update: Annulments
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15
LOCATION: In the Family Center
DETAILS: Monsignor Bass, current pastor at Prince of Peace and former moderator of the Marriage Tribunal, will hold this information session to clarify the Catholic position on annulments.

Oak Pointe
LOCATION: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit www.oakpointe.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.

St. James Catholic
LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-7778

Novi United Methodist
LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:45 a.m.

First United Methodist of Northville
LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8, 9:15, 11a.m., and 5 p.m.
Community Healing Service
DATE: First Monday of every month
DETAILS: This service is open to anyone asking God for healing in their life or in someone close to them.

Crosspointe Meadows
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.
Parenting Seminar
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 22
LOCATION: Crosspointe Meadows Office, 39830 Grand River, Suite B1-C, Novi
DETAILS: Doug Otto, from the Christian non-profit organization "Focus on Family", will provide ideas to help you on your parenting journey. The evening is free, but space is limited. Advance registration required. If child care is needed, please indicate when registering.
CONTACT: Renee Langley, (248) 427-2700

St. Paul Lutheran
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Kindergarten Registration
DETAILS: Children who turned five years-old before Friday, Dec. 1, may register for full-day or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

The Baha'i Faith
CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.us.bahai.org
Devotional Gathering
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m., last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 23803 Ripple Creek St., Novi
DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
Single Place Ministries
CONTACT: www.singleplace.org (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org
Divorce Recovery Workshop
TIME/DAY: 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday
LOCATION: Emeritus Room
DETAILS: This seven-week workshop will cover a range of topics presented by a variety of speakers. The cost is $35 per person including the book, "Growing Through Divorce." Child care will be available for toddlers through children in sixth grade with registration at least two weeks before the workshop begins. Upcoming topics are:
Tonight: Networking/Midlife Crisis, presented by Pastor Jim Russel
Jan. 18: Stages of Grief, presented by J. Harold Ellens, Ph.D.
Jan. 25: Putting Your "Ex" In Focus, presented by Deli Deaton.
Feb 1: Pot Luck Dinner and Legal Aspect of Divorce, presented by attorney David Jerome
True Colors: How We Function
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 18
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Jeff Benefderfer will provide an enlightening presentation on the colors we choose how they tell a great deal about our motives, goals and personal choices.
Men of Grace Concert
DATE: Thursday, Jan. 25
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: This will be a special concert of gospel-blues music, spirituals, hymns, and original music. Men of Grace are from Grace Centers of Hope of Michigan, and are examples of how lives can be transformed by faith. A $5 contribution is requested.
Walking Group
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: First, second and fourth Saturday, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington; Third Saturday, Panera Bread Co., 34635 Grand River Ave., Farmington
DETAILS: This is a walking/ social group. Everyone is invited.

St. John Lutheran
LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com
Saturday Worship
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School
TIME: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community Presbyterian
LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 10:30 a.m.

Grace Pointe Presbyterian Worship and the Arts Ministry
CONTACT: (248) 497-3178 or e-mail: gracepointe@mac.com
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
DATES: Monday
LOCATION: Panera Bread, Novi Road and Grand River Avenue
DETAILS: This is a biblically based forum for those interested in the arts in the Novi area.

continued on 16A

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Ice Sculpture Displays
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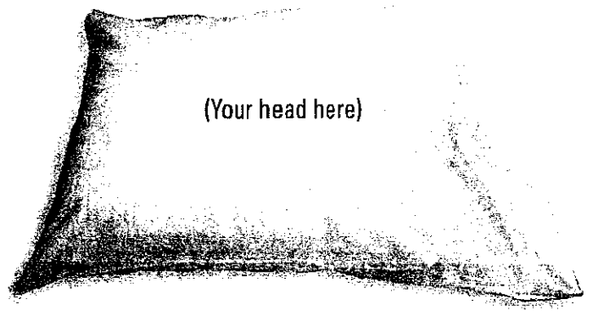

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

A little help?
Julie Harp helps her son Adam, 3, along the ice at the Novi Ice Arena during a recent open skate. One of the two rinks is open 12-1:50 p.m. every weekday.

Class Notes

School Board Recognition Month

The Michigan Association of School Boards and Governor Granholm have designated January as School Board Recognition Month. School board members face challenges every day in making tough decisions regarding budgets, personnel, curriculum and other matters to help students achieve. Proclaiming January as School Board Recognition Month is to acknowledge and recognize their dedication and countless hours of their personal time that school board members give to our schools.

Novi Woods Elementary

Candid photos for the Novi Woods Elementary yearbook are wanted. Photographs for possible inclusion in the 2006-07 book may be submitted by sending high quality prints, labeled with student's name, teacher's name, grade and activity, in an envelope marked "Yearbook" to the school office. You may also send a high resolution file on compact disc or e-mail photos as a high resolution file attachment to noviwoodsyearbook@yahoo.com. Please include your name, phone number and e-mail address for all submissions. All photo submissions will be accepted through mid-January. Call Marie Malecki, (248) 348-1460, or e-mail noviwoodsyearbook@yahoo.com, with questions.

Early Childhood Center Curriculum Night

The Northville Public Schools Early Childhood Center will hold its first Curriculum Night 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, at the Northville Senior Community Center. The evening is planned to provide parents with information on the Early Childhood Center's programs, curriculum, and enrollment procedures. Childcare will be available at the licensed 501 W. Main St., Room 207, location. Children must be at least 2 1/2 and be toilet trained. Please call (248) 344-8465 to register by Feb. 1. For more information on the programs offered for the 2007-08 school year, or 2007 summer programs, visit www.northville.k12.mi.us/earlychildhood.

Jewish Youth Award Applications

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit will be honoring exceptional high school juniors and seniors through its Jewish Youth Awards. The program recognizes students that demonstrate academic success and leadership in the Jewish community.

To be eligible for the award, a student must be a junior or senior, have a formal Jewish education, be actively involved in the Jewish community, have a signed letter of recommendation from a person in authority at the sponsoring organization, temple or synagogue, and be available to be interviewed by a panel of judges Sunday, March 25. A completed application form must be submitted including a one-page typed essay on the following topic: Anti-Semitism is on the rise worldwide. As a Jewish teenager, how has this affected you personally? As a Jewish community, what actions can we take to diminish this trend?

Applications must be submitted no later than Feb. 1. Ten finalists will be selected to be interviewed on March 25, and the final awards will be made at a ceremony on Sunday, April 22. To obtain an application, call (248) 355-3300, ext. 0.

Detroit Pistons Youth Basketball Clinic
Conducted by
Coach Steve Moreland
Saturday, January 27, 2007
Space Limited - Pre Registration Required

Boys & Girls Grades 1-3
12:00 to 12:30 p.m. - Warm-up time
12:30 to 1:45 p.m. - Basketball Clinic
1:45 to 2:00 p.m. - Coach's Corner

Boys & Girls Grades 4-6
2:00 to 2:30 p.m. - Warm-up time
2:30 to 3:45 p.m. - Basketball Clinic
3:45 to 4:00 p.m. - Coach's Corner

Only $15 per child • Parents bring your cameras

Each participant receives an Authentic "Piston Basketball" T-Shirt Free
• Parents can purchase discounted Pistons tickets for $15 each & be invited to attend with their children the pre-game "shoot around" at courtside.

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road (Just West of Haggerty)
248-374-5932
margy.burkhart@wardchurch.org

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June 23, 2006
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Send a photo and $20 to: Oh Baby, Crime & Argus, 36251 Schoolcraft, P.O. Box 2025, Livonia, MI 48844

All entries must be received by Feb. 19, 2007.

Include a SASE if you would like your photo returned.

Child's Name (First, Middle & Last) _____
Date of Birth _____ 2006 Hospital _____
Parents' Name (First & Last) _____
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Credit card number _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____ Phone (Required) _____

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WHAT'S GOING ON? (CONT'D)

continued from 14A

HEALTH

Providence Dinner with a Doctor
DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 23
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Park, Conference Rooms A,B, and C
DETAILS: The featured topic will be "Diets, Nutrition and Exercise-A Realistic View of the New Year's Resolutions" presented by Dr. Michael Montico. The evening includes a casual dinner, presentation and question and answer session. There is no charge, but reservations are requested.
CONTACT: (888) 440-7325

St. John Providence Park Hospital-Novi Classes
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Ave.
CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday
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.
Breast-feeding Preparation
DETAILS: A one-time class for mom and her partner helping to provide tips for successful breast-feeding.
Baby Care Basics
DETAILS: A one-time class with practical information about how to adapt to life with a baby.
Infant Massage
DETAILS: This two-session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.

Boost Camp Day
DATE: Friday, Jan. 26
TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Providence Park Medical Building
DETAILS: This is a day of enrichment and personal exploration designed to provide valuable tools and information on healthier living. The cost is $50, including lunch and materials. Registration is required.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Oakland Physical Therapy Classes
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Ave., Suite B124
CONTACT: (348) 380-3550
There is no charge for the following classes, but advance registration is required.
Your Career as a Physical Therapist
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., Jan. 18
DETAILS: This class is an opportunity for both high school and college students, and their parents, to meet and talk with experienced physical therapists and learn about this challenging and rewarding career possibility.
Fit After Fifty
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., Jan. 24
DETAILS: Current concepts will be presented in a lecture/participation format in safe, effective excercise for overall strengthening and cardiovascular fitness.
Get Ready to Run
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m., Feb. 8
DETAILS: A lecture/demonstration and group participation class for those interested in running. Emphasis will be on common running injuries and their prevention as well as footwear selection. Please dress comfortably.

ONGOING

SWOCC Studio Tours
LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington.
DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios local community television studio.
CONTACT: Melissa Cohn, (248) 473-2840

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals
TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday
LOCATION: Novi High School, Taft Road
DETAILS: Open to all wind and percussion players.
CONTACT: Diran Kechyan, (248) 348-5135

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 348-5600 or visit http://rockfinancialshowplace.com/for more information.
Ultimate Fishing Show
SCHEDULE: 2-9:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday Jan. 13; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15
DETAILS: This is the show for everyone who loves to fish. Fishing tackle, trips, boats, charters, seminars and much more will be available. Admission is $9 for adults, $4 for children six-11, and free for five and under. There is a $5 parking charge.
CONTACT: (800) 328-6550 or go to www.ultimatefishingshow.com

Metro Mid-Winter Classic Dog Show
SCHEDULE: 10 a.m-5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21
DETAILS: The United Kennel Club presents this all breed dog show. Admission is $10 for adults, $7 for seniors and children 11 and under, and a family pass is available for $25. Parking is $5.
CONTACT: (248) 343-9020
Home Improvement Show
SCHEDULE: noon-9 pm. Friday, Jan. 26; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28
DETAILS: The 15th Annual Novi Home Improvement Show features over 300 exhibitors including the latest technology, products, and services for all parts of the home. Admission is $10 for adults, $9 for seniors, and free for children 12 and under. Parking is $5
CONTACT: (248) 737-4477

REGIONAL

Mentor Volunteers
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 13
LOCATION: Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
DETAILS: The Oakland County Youth Assistance is looking for volunteers for its Mentor Plus program to be a positive role model for someone 5-16 years old.
CONTACT: (248) 858-0041

BeckRidge Chorale Auditions
TIME/DATES: 7 p.m. Jan. 16, 23, & 30
LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth
DETAILS: The Chorale is inviting the public to open auditions for the spring concert titled "Sing for the Cure." All proceeds from this concert will go to the Barbara Karmanos Cancer Institute.
CONTACT: (734) 416-9885

BeckRidge Chorale's Village Voices Concert
DATE: Friday, Jan. 19
TIME: 8 p.m.
LOCATION: Village Theater of Canton, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
DETAILS: The BeckRidge Chorale presents it's ensemble, the Village Voices, in their first concert of 2007. The program will feature the music of Fred Waring, regarded by many as the world's finest interpreter of choral music. Tickets are $12 for general seating, and can be purchasad by phone Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., or Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., or by going to the web site and printing an order form to mail in.
CONTACT: (866) 924-4276 or www.Plycommunitychorus.org

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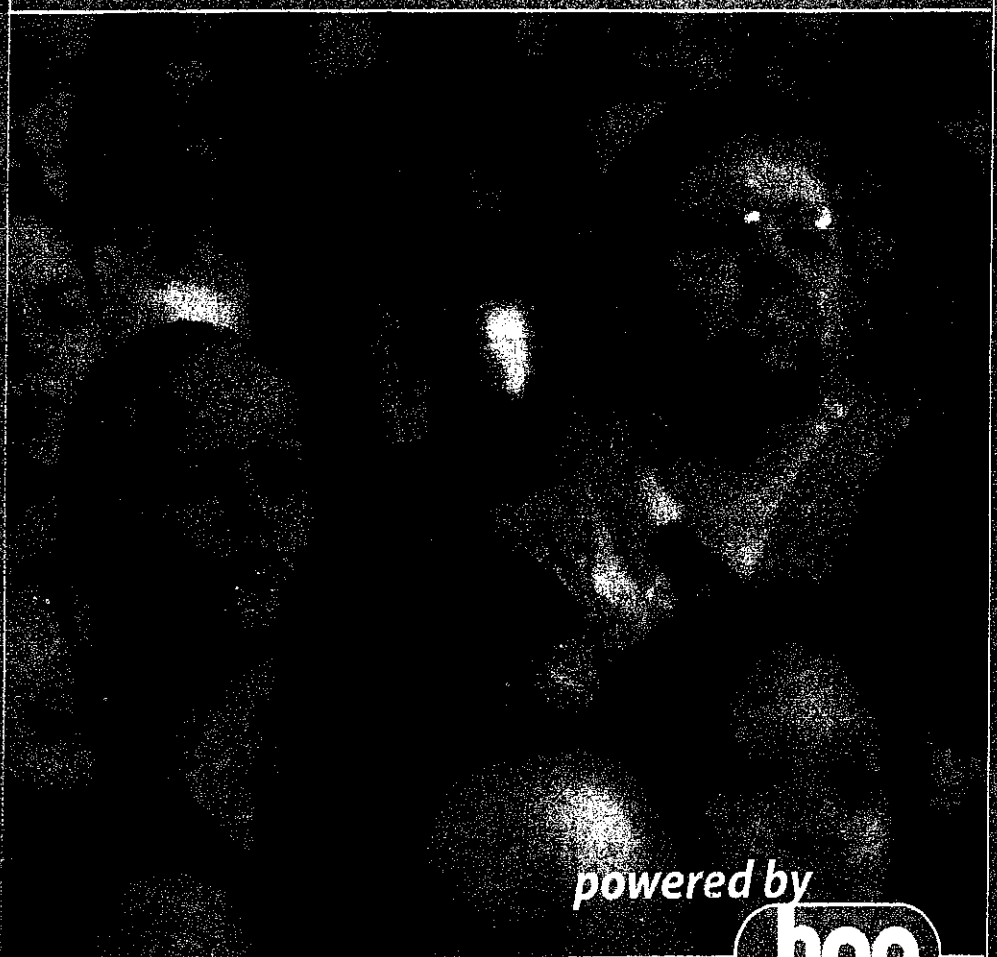

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High school schedules and standings, P. B3

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On the right foot

■ Dean paces all scorers with 20 against Milford in 50-37 win to start KVC

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS

Milford played the role of the pest, but the Mavericks couldn't overcome a strong Novi first and fourth quarter.

The Wildcats (5-2, 1-0) opened KVC play with a 50-37 win Friday at home. Novi also beat Walled Lake Central to open the new year.

Junior forward/center Caleb Dean struggled through much of the first three quarters with foul trouble but still managed to get 20 points, thanks to a 10-point fourth quarter. Dean also grabbed 10 rebounds.

"I really don't look at it as an individual," Dean said. "I look at it as a team and we won.

"If I get zero points and 20 rebounds, I'll do that. Shoot, I'll do anything just to win."

> **"We're young, but 5-2 at this point and 1-0 in the KVC, I'll take it."**
>
> *Pat Schluter*
> *Varsity Basketball Coach, Novi*

Novi came out red hot, hitting their first seven shots and jumping out to a 16-6 lead. The Wildcats would hold a 19-9 lead by the end of the first quarter.

"I told the guys we had to get a lead," Novi head coach Pat Schluter said. "We knew that if they got the lead they were going to hold the ball.

"We got really aggressive early. We came out fired up."

Mike Longo tallied seven points in the opening stanza, and Dean had five.

Dean picked up his second foul early in the second and sat most of the quarter. The Novi offense went into a funk, but the Wildcats still maintained a 24-18 lead at the break.

Both offenses struggled through the third quarter, but Novi stretched the lead by a point to 32-25 heading into the fourth.

Dean took over in the fourth, mostly at the free throw line. He hit his first eight freebies before missing the final two after being distracted by music that continued to play after a timeout. He finished 9-for-10 from the line and 5-for-7 from the floor.

"I was just trying to cheer my teammates on and stay as positive as possible, watching the other team and seeing what I was going to do when I got back in," Dean said. "I just had to stay out of foul trouble once I got in."

The Mavericks were severely outsized, but continued trying to go inside after the taller Wildcats. The move kept them close for a while, but Novi pulled away late.

Milford senior Steve Wykes led his team with 11 points, and Mike Petrucci scored 10.

Longo scored 11 for the 'Cats, and Brandon Bradford added nine.

The Novi JV also recorded a win against Milford, 40-38.

On Dec. 3, the Wildcats escaped a scare by Walled Lake Central, 51-45.

Dean led the way with 23 points, and Bradford pitched in 17 points.

"We're young, but 5-2 at this point and 1-0 in the KVC, I'll take it," Schluter said. "We're getting better. During the game we go through lapses on offense where we just can't score, but that's because we're young."

Jeff Theisen can be reached at jtheisen@gannett.com or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

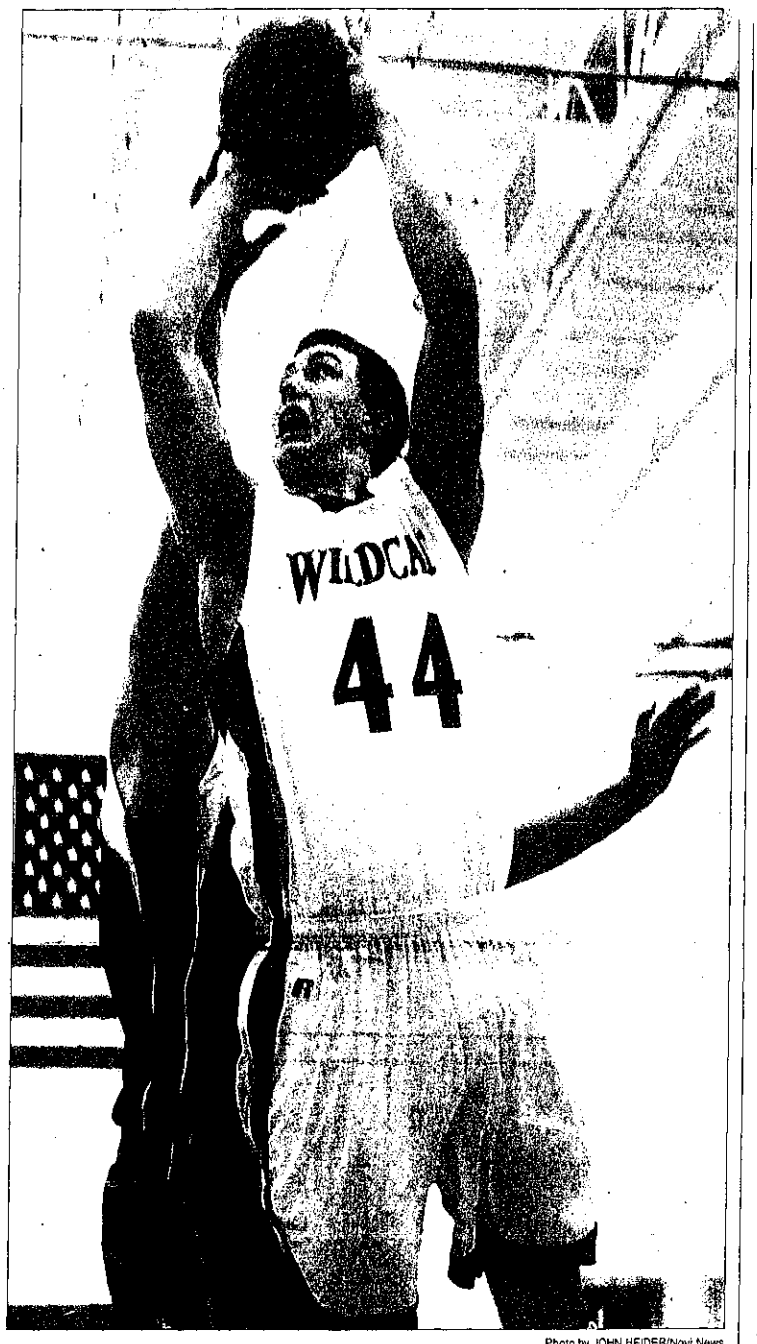


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Feeling the Plymouth Wildcats pressure, Novi Wildcat Tyler Hoover goes hard to the hoop.

Novi hockey travels to U.P.

Once again, the Novi Varsity Hockey team embarked on it's annual trek to the far reaches of Michigan's Keewanaw Peninsula this past weekend to face perennial hockey powerhouses, the Calumet Copper Kings and the Houghton Gremlins. This year marks the seventh consecutive year the Wildcats have made the 1000-plus mile round trip to face these Copper Country rivals.

The Wildcats dropped a pair to the Upper Peninsula schools, but the trip was more than just playing two games.

After a long nine hour bus trip last Thursday morning, the Wildcats arrived in historic downtown Houghton to begin what for many players would be one of the highlights of their high school hockey careers. Upon their arrival, the team checked into their rooms and headed off for a team dinner and a fun bowling event arranged by the varsity coaching staff.

Friday morning the Wildcats headed off to the Calumet Armory to see what for some, would be their first look at this "Old School" hockey facility. Located just outside downtown Calumet, the "Armory" once served as the area's military armory for many decades. It has also served a duel purpose as both a military armory as well as the towns only indoor ice arena for the past 40+ years. Recently purchased from the government, it now only serves Calumet as it's ice arena.

The Wildcats were able to hold a game day practice in this old building hoping to loosen their legs from the long bus ride the day before.

Friday night's game between the Wildcats and the Copper Kings brought out most of the residents of this small town in an effort to watch another exciting high school hockey game. The old wooden bleachers that surround this ice surface were once again packed to the rafters with local fans along with the die hard Wildcat fans who braved the long ride up to the upper peninsula. As always, the local radio station was on hand to broadcast this game live for those who were unfortunate to not be there in person. A traditional skating "Color Guard" began the game by skating around the ice surface in full military dress uniforms and carrying the stars and stripes. The entire Calumet high school band was on hand for the playing of the national anthem, as well.

The Wildcats played to a 0-0 tie after the first period with both teams having some quality scoring chances.

The Copper Kings opened up the scoring early in the second period with two quick goals just ten seconds apart. The Wildcats battled back with a quick goal to make the score 2-1. Scoring for the Wildcats was senior Jeff Donohue with assists going to both senior Ryan Richardson and junior Andrew Haggerty. Shortly after closing the gap to just one goal, the Copper Kings took advantage of a Novi penalty and scored on the ensuing power play to make it a 3-1 game.

Continued on B2

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Steve DeBono, top, battles with Northville's Evan Bentley.

Depleted 'Cats eighth at invite

By Jeff Theisen
NOVI NEWS

The Novi wrestling team stayed hard at work on the mats during the holiday break and competed at the Salem Invite on Dec. 28. The Wildcats were eighth out of 17 teams, despite missing several regular starters.

Justin Pullin highlighted the meet for Novi, capturing the title at 112 pounds with four wins. He earned two wins by pin and won an 8-4 decision to make it to the finals.

Pullin won a tight 8-7 decision against Justin Fleeson of Belleville to win the title.

Jon Lichorbiec took second place at 103 pounds. He won by pin in his first match and won a 9-3 decision in the second to make the finals. Gamal Yahia of Melvindale won the title with a 10-4 decision.

Robbie Yusko placed fifth at 125 pounds, winning three matches and losing two.

Aditya Sathi captured sixth place at 119 pounds, winning two matches by technical fall and losing two by decision.

Catholic Central basketball

Catholic Central struggled against one of the state's best teams, Orchard Lake St. Mary's (4-1, 3-0). The Shamrocks fell 65-26, falling to 2-3, 0-2.

Novi JV basketball

The Novi junior varsity basketball team picked up a pair of wins in the past week. The Wildcats beat Walled Lake Central 47-31 on Jan. 3 and Milford 40-38 on Jan. 5.

Novi freshman basketball

The Wildcat freshman basketball team split a pair of games with Walled Lake Central and Milford.

Central topped Novi 33-24 on Jan. 3. Zach Wilson led the

Continued on B2

NOVI NEWS Athlete of the Week

Novi junior Caleb Dean, Basketball

Dean averaged 21.5 points in the first two games of 2007. Dean scored 23 points in a 51-45 win against Walled Lake Central. He scored 20 more and grabbed 10 rebounds in a 50-42 win against Milford.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The Novi Wildcats practice two-on-two drills at the Novi Ice Arena.

■ HOCKEY: Wildcats make annual trek to Upper Peninsula

Continued from B1

The Wildcats worked hard throughout the remainder of the game but couldn't find the scoring touch that earned them a 6-1 win over South Lyon just before the holiday break. The final score: Calumet 6, Novi 1.

Houghton 3, Novi 2

Saturday afternoon's game was against the Houghton Gremlins. The Gremlins home arena is the historic "Dee Stadium" located on the banks of Portage Lake. Dee Stadium is the home of the first professional hockey game played in North America way back in 1904. With an actual hockey museum located inside the lobby, this historic ice arena is a must see for any hockey fan. One thing hockey fans can be certain of is that whatever the temperature is outside Dee Stadium, the temperature inside will be much colder.

The Wildcats played a much more inspired and fast paced game against Houghton on Saturday afternoon, but fell behind 3-0 on a couple of defensive hiccups early on in the game which resulted in a couple of clean breakaways along with a couple of odd man rushes. The Gremlins took full advantage of each of these mistakes and took the 3-0 lead into the third period. The Wildcats continued to force the play into the Gremlins end throughout the first period, but once again, couldn't find the net with the Gremlins goaltender turning away a number of great scoring chances by the Green and White. After an evenly played second period, the Wildcats came out firing on all cylinders in the third. Taking advantage of a Gremlin penalty, senior Shawn Baxter found the back of the Gremlin net to make it a 3-1 game. A short time later, Senior Ryan Richardson took full advantage of another Gremlin penalty, scoring on a one timer from the slot to make it 3-2. The Wildcats pulled goaltender DeNova for an extra attacker with just over a minute left on the game clock, in an effort to even things up. After a flurry of scrambles and ensuing shots, the Wildcats were unable to bury the puck and tie the game, loosing a close contest by the score of 3-2.

Coach Krygier indicated that "Once the cobwebs were shaken off after the lengthy holiday break, the team began playing much better hockey against Houghton. "We were a little rusty after not playing any games for almost three weeks." Krygier said following the Houghton game. "I thought our boys really took it to Houghton today and we could have easily won this game with a couple of breaks going our way. Our intensity level was good and the execution in our defensive zone was much better today.

"More importantly for us was having the opportunity to make this trip each year and experience not only the quality of hockey played up here, but to have the chance to bond together as a team. We are very fortunate to have been invited back again for the eighth year in a row, and we've graciously accepted the invitation for next season. We very much look forward to coming back. The team's, coaches, and the hockey fans up here have been wonderful."

Submitted to the Novi News.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The Novi Wildcats hit the ice, sprinting around the rink during practice.

Sports Shorts

Pistons clinic coming Jan. 27

The Detroit Pistons Youth Basketball Clinic is coming to Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville on Saturday, Jan. 27. Coach Steve Moreland will conduct his clinic for boys and girls, grades 1-3 from noon-2:30 pm, and grades 4-6 from 2:00-4:30 pm. Each participant will receive a "Piston Basketball" T-Shirt free. Parents will be able to purchase Piston tickets at a discount and be invited to attend with their children the popular pre-game shoot around at courtside. Refreshments are provided. Bring your basketball and camera. Cost is $15 per child. Pre-registration is necessary at (248) 374-5932.

Cash scores 16 against Tri-State

ANGOLA, Ind. (Jan. 6, 2007) - Albion College swingman Jim Cash (Northville/Detroit Catholic Central) matched his career scoring high of 16 points in the Britons' 74-66 loss to Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association rival Tri-State University. Cash was 5-of-11 from the field in the game, including 4-of-7 from 3-point range. He also sank

both of his free throw attempts. Cash grabbed four rebounds and dished out an assist in 23 minutes of action.

Cash is Albion's fourth-leading scorer with an average of 6.8 points per game.

■ ROUNDUP: Novi takes eighth

Continued from B1

Wildcats with eight points and five rebounds.

Novi (4-3) rebounded with a 55-42 win against Milford on Jan. 5. Mitchell Patton paced the 'Cats with 14 points and seven rebounds. Wilson added 10 points.

Jeff Theisen can be reached at jtheisen@gannett.com or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Fandemonium

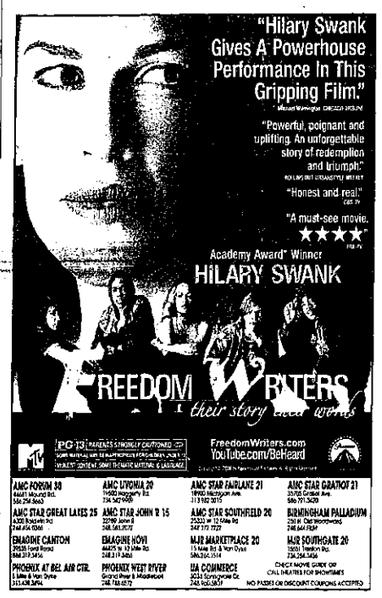
The Northville Record and Novi News are launching a new idea, giving local fans a forum to write about their favorite sports teams once a month.

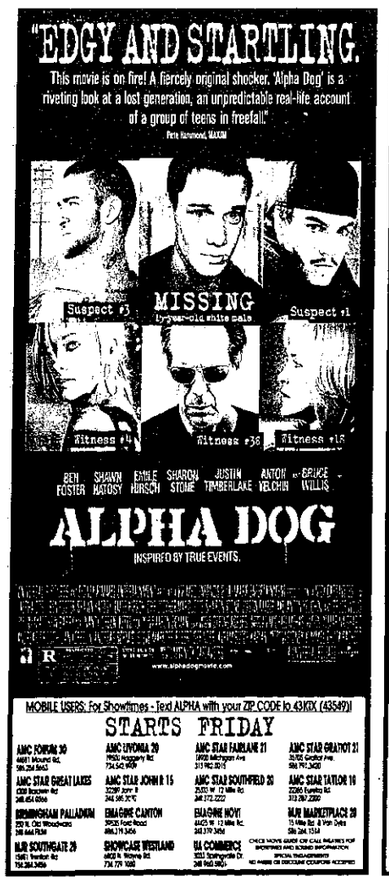
Did you see something special at a game? Got a compliment you would like to see in the paper?

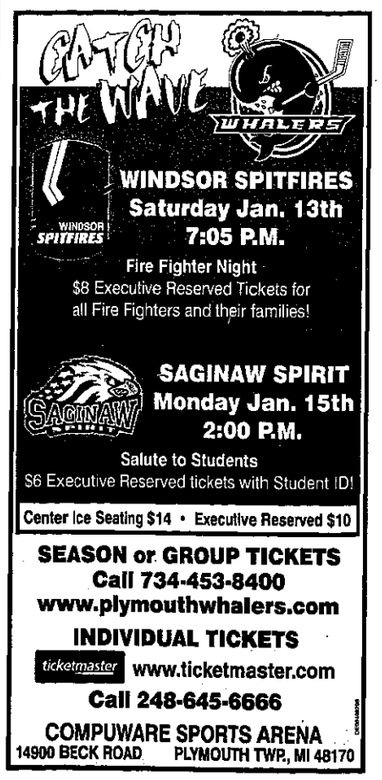
Send your comments to Jeff Theisen at jtheisen@gannett.com.

All submissions should be less than 75 words and will require a name, age or year in school and city of residence. For verification purposes, a daytime phone number is required.

Please keep comments respectful and concentrated on the local sports scene.







Standings

KVC Volleyball

	League W	League L	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Lakeland	2	0	7	1	0
Novi	2	0	6	1	0
Milford	1	1	10	3	1
South Lyon	1	1	7	5	1
Brighton	1	1	1	1	0
Howell	1	1	1	1	0
Pinckney	0	2	5	2	0
Hartland	0	2	5	5	2

KVC Hockey

	League W	League L	League T	Overall W	Overall L	Overall T
Howell	4	1	1	7	3	1
Brighton	4	1	1	8	4	1
Hartland	3	1	2	7	4	2
Lakeland	3	1	2	6	3	2
Novi	2	3	1	3	6	1
South Lyon	2	4	0	2	4	0
Milford	1	4	1	3	6	3
Pinckney	1	5	0	3	7	0

KVC Basketball

	League W	League L	Overall W	Overall L
Novi	1	0	5	2
Pinckney	1	0	4	2
South Lyon	1	0	2	3
Howell	1	0	1	4
Lakeland	0	1	4	2
Hartland	0	1	2	4
Brighton	0	1	1	5
Milford	0	1	1	5

schedules

Basketball
1/12 at Pinckney, 7 p.m.

Hockey
1/12 Hartland, 6:30 p.m.
1/16 at Pinckney, 6 p.m.

Volleyball
(JV start time, varsity follows)
1/11 at Howell, 5:30 p.m.

Wrestling
1/13 at Brighton, 10 a.m.

Boys Swim and Dive
1/11 Pinckney, 6 p.m.
1/16 at WL Western, 7 p.m.

Cheer
1/13 Novi Invite, 9 a.m.
1/15 at Milford, 6 p.m..
1/17 Howell, 6 p.m.

Bowling
1/13 Lakeland, Noon
1/13 South Lyon, 2:30 p.m.
1/17 South Lyon, 3:30 p.m.

Basketball
1/12 at Divine Child, 7:30 p.m.
1/16 at DeLaSalle, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey
1/13. Trenton at Compuware, 7 p.m.
1/17 Grosse Pointe N. at Mt. Clemens Ice Arena, 7:45 p.m.

Wrestling
1/13 CC Invite, 10 a.m.

Swim and Dive
1/11 Grosse Pointe S., 7 p.m.
1/13 at Cranbrook Acad., TBA

Bowling
1/13 Crestwood Tourney at Cherry Hill, 10 a.m.

Ski Team
1/11 Pinckney at Mt. Brighton, 4:30 p.m.
1/16 Okemos at Mt. Brighton, 4:30 p.m.

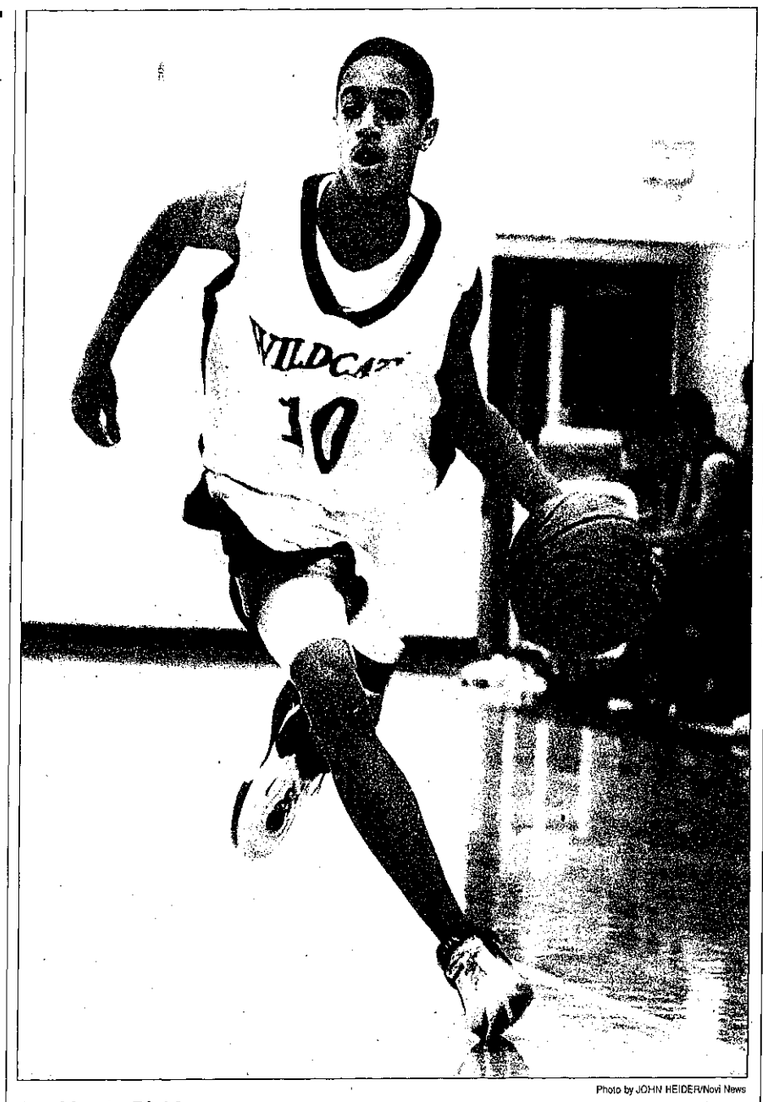
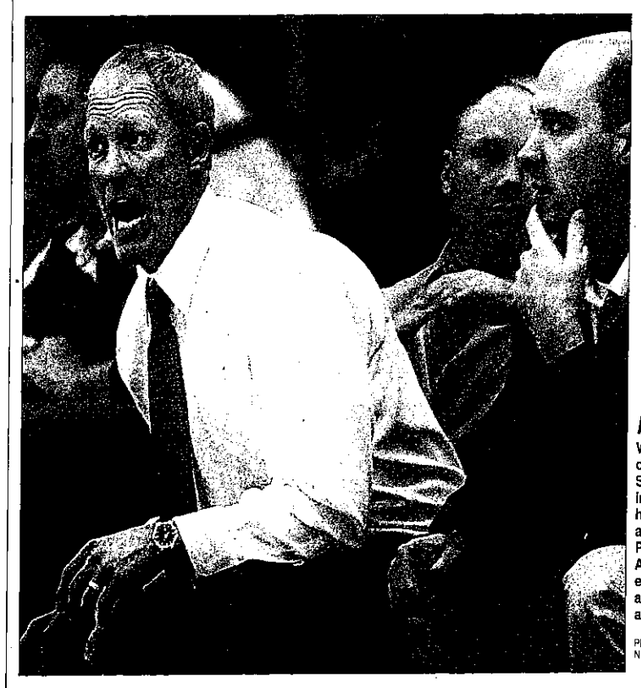


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Looking to Dish!
Novi's Chris Bellamy brings the ball up the court.



Motivation!
Wildcats' head coach Pat Schluter yells instructions to his troops during a battle against Plymouth High. Assistant coaches Kevin Etue and Josh Tropea are seen at right.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER Novi News

Tourney Title!
The fifth grade Novi Cats basketball team won the Tri-county Baskeball Tournament held at South Lyon High School in mid-December. The Cats went 5-0 in the tournament.
Top row: (left to right) Jim Cox, Mike Zugaro, Todd, Beyer; middle row: Jay Kim, Kyle Garcia, Alex Warner; first row: Samuel Li, Austin Beyer, Nick Zugaro, Nicky Cox and Grant Cox.

Submitted photo

Sports Medicine

Get fit without getting injured

It's that time of year again when the gym is uncharacteristically busy, filled with new yet determined faces. New Year's specials are all over the airwaves touting area health clubs to take advantage of all those resolving to get in shape. As noble and truly healthy as this resolution is, invariably there are people who end up in the doctor's office with some sort of ache in a muscle they never knew existed.

Sean Bak

Shoulder injuries are among the most common for the gym novice. The rotator cuff is a series of four small muscles surrounding the shoulder that strengthens at a much slower pace than the large muscles of the shoulder. Typically, within three to four weeks the large muscles are getting stronger and at this point can start to overpower the rotator cuff, usually causing a tendonitis. Every year, we always see a handful of people who lift too heavy, too soon and the shoulder can't handle the weight. Because the shoulder relies so heavily on its muscles for stability, when they give way, it often results in significant ligament damage to the shoulder, usually during a shoulder or chest press exercise. While important with all joints, it's especially vital to warm up and learn how to properly tune the fine muscles of the shoulder when beginning an exercise program.

In our practice, it's not the New Year until you've seen four or five new back injuries by 10 AM. Similar to the shoulder, the back muscles often strengthen more slowly than other muscles in the body, leaving it vulnerable to strains. Two simple points can help avoid this common problem: 1) Stretch, stretch, stretch. While important for all muscle, it's particularly valuable in back injury prevention. 2) Strengthen the abs. These muscles complement the spinal muscles as the other 'trunk stabilizing' muscles and, unlike the back, are less prone to injury and respond quickly to strengthening exercises.

Running injuries are also uncannily common in January and February. These range from an ankle sprain due to a fall off a treadmill to the more typical knee, ankle and foot tendonitis. Treadmills and stairclimbers are the usual suspects when it comes to these nagging injuries. These are usually a result of increasing one's training too fast rather than a gradual progression in intensity and length of workout. As a general rule of thumb, a month is an appropriate length of time for building to a distance or time goal in cardiovascular training. Additionally, while the stairclimbers and treadmills are excellent from a cardiovascular standpoint, cycling and elliptical machines are easier in the knee.

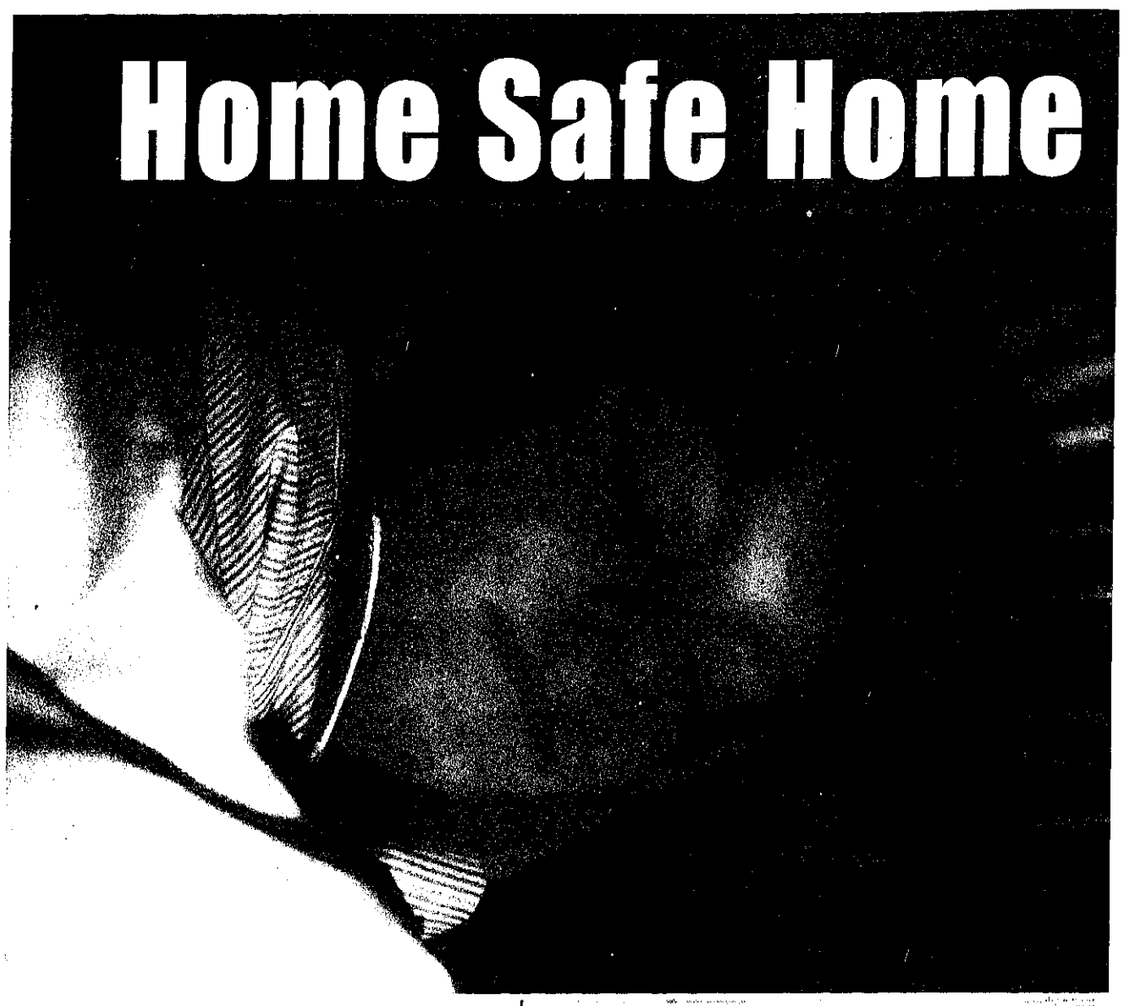
The most practical piece of advice is this: Take advantage of the personal training offered by most gyms. This perk is especially common as part of a beginner's New Year's resolution package. Most personal trainers I've encountered are very knowledgeable when it comes to starting people properly on an exercise routine. They tend to have a good feel for who needs to take it slow and who can ramp up their activities a little more quickly. In spite of all the pitfalls and potential injuries, the benefits of exercise and getting in shape far outweigh the small chance of injuries which, with the proper instruction, can often be reduced to almost nothing.

Dr. Sean Bak is a Novi resident and an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in shoulder reconstruction and sports medicine. Bak takes care of the athletes of Oakland University and several area high schools. His practice, Performance Orthopedic, is based out of Beaumont Hospital.

Make a Difference RECYCLE

Home

Home Safe Home



FAMILY FEATURES

Adopting simple habits can make a huge impact in saving lives. Help keep your friends and family safe in their homes year-round by encouraging them to take easy safety measures, such as remembering to replace smoke alarm batteries at least once a year.

Reducing the number of home fire fatalities is the goal that Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs set out to accomplish when the *Change Your Clock Change Your Battery* campaign was created 19 years ago. Today, both organizations, along with thousands of fire departments nationwide, spend countless hours spreading the message of fire safety in communities. First and foremost, remember to change the batteries in your smoke alarms each year when you adjust your clocks from daylight-saving time. It is a simple step that many people take for granted.

What Is Daylight-Saving Time?

The original idea for daylight-saving time came in 1784 from Benjamin Franklin, a founding founder of the United States and one of America's most famous inventors. The main purpose of daylight-saving time was to make better use of daylight. Clocks are changed during summer months to move an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening and are changed back in the fall. Arizona and Hawaii are the only two U.S. states that do not participate in daylight-saving time.

Did You Know?

- A working smoke alarm more than doubles your chances of surviving a home fire.
- On average, 1,000 children die every year in home fires.
- Children and senior citizens are twice as likely to die in a home fire.
- Nineteen million homes are at needless risk for home fire fatalities.
- The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. when most people are sleeping and the house is dark.
- The smell of smoke will not wake you up during a fire.
- Candle fires accounted for an estimated 5 percent of all reported home fires.

Beyond regularly changing smoke alarm batteries, there are other easy precautions you can take to keep yourself and your family safe. Prepare ahead of time for the possibility of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and power outages.

Do's and Don'ts to Help Keep You and Your Family Safe

Do:

- Remember: *Change Your Clock Change Your Battery*. It is a good reminder to put fresh Energizer batteries in your smoke alarms when changing your clocks back from daylight-saving time.
- Have at least one working smoke alarm on each level of your home.
- Make sure your family has a planned fire escape route.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly to make sure they work.
- Maintain carbon monoxide detectors as you do smoke alarms by regularly installing fresh batteries.
- Use flashlights rather than candles to light your home during power outages. A flashlight such as an *Energizer Weather Ready* 8-LED lantern runs for more than 245 hours on a single set of batteries.
- Keep a battery-powered radio available for power outages.
- Keep extra *Energizer Max* batteries on hand in various sizes for radios, flashlights and smoke detectors.

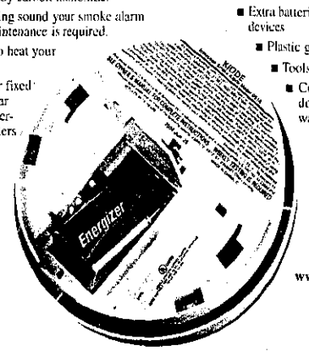
Don't:

- Remove smoke alarm batteries without replacing them with fresh ones. This increases the risk of needless fire fatalities.
- Rely on your sense of smell to alert you that you are in danger of being trapped during a fire or poisoned by carbon monoxide.
- Ignore the chirping sound your smoke alarm makes when maintenance is required.
- Use your oven to heat your home.
- Place portable or fixed space heaters near combustible materials or leave heaters unattended.
- Leave candles burning unattended.

Make a disaster relief supply kit of your own.

Some important items to include are:

- First aid kit
- Blankets and/or sleeping bags
- At least a three-day supply of water. (store three gallons of water for each person per day)
- A minimum three-day supply of nonperishable foods
- Personal care items
- Medications
- Flashlights and extra Energizer Max brand batteries
- Battery-powered radio and spare batteries
- Extra batteries for necessary medical devices
- Plastic garbage bags and ties
- Tools
- Copies of important documents (kept in waterproof containers)



For more information, please visit www.energizer.com.

Lifestyle

Healthier, *faster* grocery shopping!

FAMILY FEATURES

Your computer mouse just became your secret weapon for healthy shopping. Before setting foot in the often-confusing grocery store aisles, save time by arming yourself with a list of tasty, heart-healthy foods. It's a great first step in creating a sensible eating plan for you and your family.

Who knew grocery shopping would become so challenging? From the many health claims on labels to the sheer volume of products on shelves, making wise food selections can be overwhelming. To help you make informed choices quickly and reliably, look for the American Heart Association's red heart with a white check mark on food packages.

This distinctive mark is your assurance that the product meets American Heart Association certification criteria for being low in saturated fat and cholesterol for healthy people over age 2. Products containing whole grains may also meet the Association's standard for being high in whole grains and fiber, as well as being low in saturated fat and cholesterol. This simple icon takes the guesswork out of heart-healthy shopping.

"With all the messages in grocery stores, consumers are bombarded with information," said Penny Kris-Etherton, R.D., Ph.D. and professor of nutrition at Pennsylvania State University. "The heart-check mark makes it easy to cut through the clutter and reliably find the nutritious foods consumers are looking for."

You can save even more valuable time by first visiting heartcheckmark.org to use the free grocery list builder tool. Click on the "grocery list" link and browse through approximately 800 products certified by the American Heart Association. Products are organized by food manufacturers and by categories such as breads, dairy case, frozen foods, fruits and vegetables, meats, snacks and more.

A category called "My Items" allows you to easily type in other products for your list, such as spices or bottled water.

Finished? Just print the list and head to the store. Refer to your list to help you select the foods you want, which are conveniently identified by the recognizable heart-check mark on food packages.

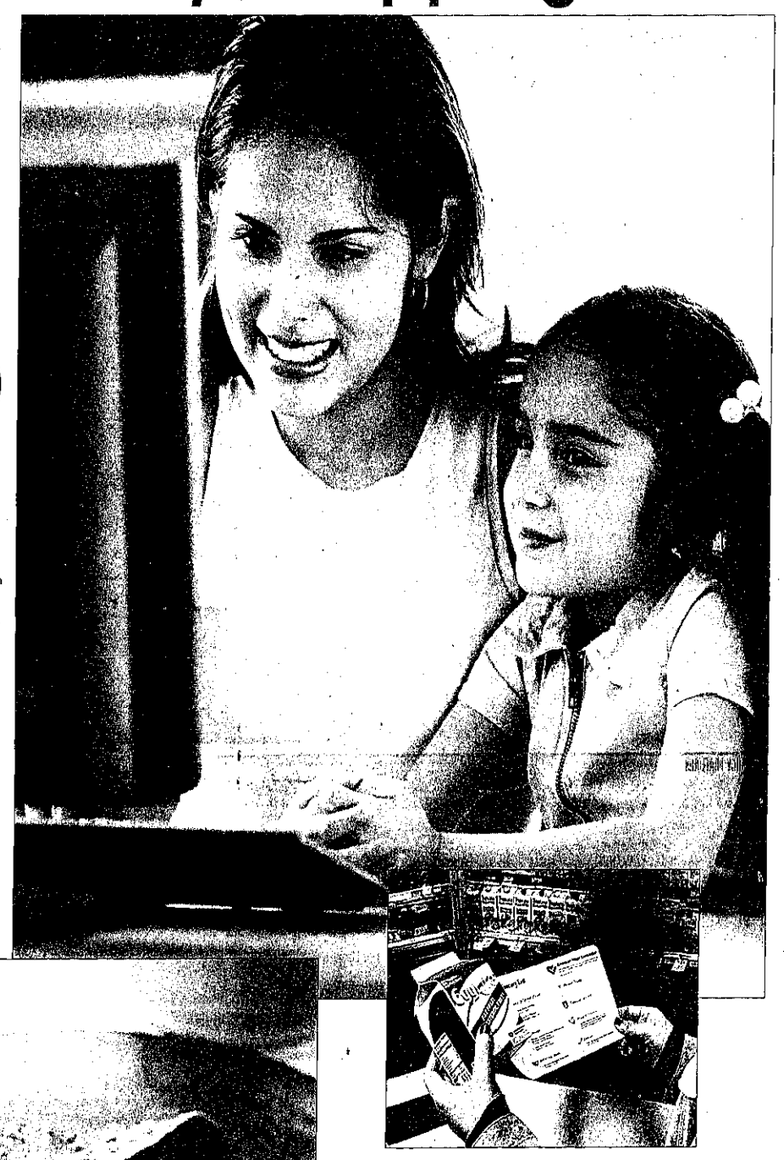
"The online grocery list builder is a quick and easy tool," Kris-Etherton adds. "Shoppers save time, plus they have the peace of mind that the foods they are buying are part of a heart-healthy diet."

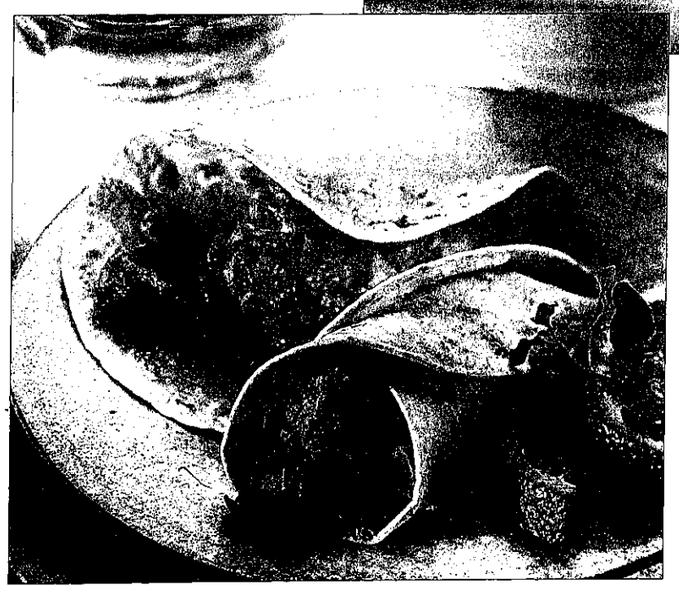
Heart-healthy grocery shopping is just a click away. For more information about the grocery list builder, visit **heartcheckmark.org**. To learn more about reducing risk of heart disease and stroke through healthy lifestyle changes, visit **americanheart.org**, or call 1-800-AHA-USA1 for a free copy of the "Shop Smart with Heart" brochure.

American Heart Association

Products displaying the heart-check mark meet American Heart Association food criteria for saturated fat and cholesterol for healthy people over age 2.

www.heartcheckmark.org





Shop smart. Live well. Look for the heart-check mark!

Products bearing the heart-check mark meet the American Heart Association's nutrition criteria per standard serving size to be:

- Low in fat (less than or equal to 3 grams),
- Low in saturated fat (less than or equal to 1 gram),
- Low in cholesterol (less than or equal to 20 milligrams),
- Moderate in sodium, with less than or equal to 480 milligrams for individual foods and
- Contain at least 10 percent of the Daily Value of one or more of these naturally occurring nutrients: protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, iron or dietary fiber.
- Requirements for seafood, game meat, meat and poultry, as well as whole-grain products, main dishes and meals have different values.

Breakfast Tortilla Wrap

This hearty breakfast sandwich combines fluffy scrambled eggs, Canadian bacon, hash browns, red bell pepper for color and a bit of cheese for flair. It makes an easy meal for busy people on the go.

Serves: 4

Vegetable oil spray
Egg substitute equivalent to 2 eggs, or 2 eggs
1/4 teaspoon pepper, divided
4 6-inch corn tortillas
1 cup frozen fat-free shredded potatoes (about 3 ounces)
1/2 medium red bell pepper, diced
1/4 cup chopped Canadian bacon (about 1 ounce)
1 ounce fat-free or reduced-fat Cheddar cheese, shredded

Heat oven to 350°F. Heat small nonstick skillet over medium-low heat. Remove the skillet from heat; lightly spray with vegetable oil spray (being careful not to spray near a gas flame). Return skillet to heat, cook egg substitute and 1/8 teaspoon pepper 3 to 4 minutes until eggs are cooked through, stirring occasionally. Set aside.

Wrap tortillas in foil. Warm in oven for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, stir together the potatoes, peppers, bacon, and remaining pepper. Heat a medium nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Remove skillet from heat, lightly spray with vegetable oil spray. Spread potato mixture evenly over bottom of skillet. Return skillet to heat, cook 6 to 7 minutes on one side, until potatoes are light golden-brown. Using spatula, turn potato mixture, cook 5 to 6 more minutes.

To assemble, layer ingredients horizontally across middle of tortilla as follows: 1/4 scrambled eggs, 1/4 potato mixture, 1/4 cheese. Roll like a jelly roll, starting at the bottom. Secure each wrap with a toothpick, if desired. Repeat with the remaining tortillas. Serve immediately.

Keep breakfast tortillas in an airtight container, or store individually in plastic wrap. To reheat, place one or two wraps on a microwave-safe plate. Microwave on high 1 to 1 1/2 minutes.

Nutrients per serving: 92 calories; 0.5g fat (0.0g saturated fat, 0.0g polyunsaturated fat, 0.5g monounsaturated fat); 4mg cholesterol; 221mg sodium; 14g carbohydrates; 2g fiber; 8g protein

This recipe is reprinted with permission from the "American Heart Association Low-Fat, Low-Cholesterol Cookbook, Third Edition." Copyright 2005 by the American Heart Association. Published by Clarkson Potter/Publishers, a division of Random House, Inc. Available from booksellers everywhere.

Parenting

Welcoming the 300 Millionth American

FAMILY FEATURES

Tick, Tick, Tick … One American at a Time

According to demographers closely following the U.S. Census Population Clock, the U.S. population reached 300 million people in October 2006. At this milestone, one might reflect on how the life of today's babies differs from those born nearly 40 years ago in 1967, when the U.S. population crested at 200 million. Technology, mobility and science are making lifestyles radically different today than a couple of generations ago.

In honor of the 300 millionth American, Johnson's Baby, the trusted experts in baby skin care, commissioned a survey in conjunction with BabyCenter, LLC (www.BabyCenter.com), the leading online destination for new and expectant parents, and novaQuant, Inc. (www.novaquant.com), a marketing and business research firm in Oakland, Calif., that looked at moms today and those who gave birth in the late '60s.

Generations of Moms — Is Motherhood Changing?

This in-depth survey examined the evolution of motherhood, including the sources where moms get trusted advice, their viewpoints on childcare and rearing and their sense of satisfaction in life. It also exampled concerns for the health and safety of their children, whether moms work outside the home, what type of support systems they depend on and what they do with their free time.

"Johnson's has been valued and trusted as a partner for more than 100 years. We help parents navigate the most challenging transition in life. We reassure. We help parents relax into the little moments of touch, of nuzzling, of bonding that create a lifetime of closeness. This is why Johnson's is so excited and proud to celebrate the birth of the 300 millionth American," said Bridgette Heller, global president for Johnson's Baby. "The survey findings contribute to our always-evolving understanding of parents — their concerns, their joys, their wants and needs relative to their babies. Ultimately, this work will help us better deliver on the needs of parents today."

Mothers' Helpers — Mom Still Knows Best!

Some things don't change. Both generation groups acknowledged their own mothers and medical professionals as their top sources for advice and information on child rearing. Today's moms are more likely than yesterday's to consult the Internet, friends, spouses, magazines and books for support. Interestingly, moms in the 1960s were less likely to trust parenting magazines and books.

Jessica Lilie, director of market research at BabyCenter, agrees that moms are embracing technology to do what they have naturally been doing for centuries — communicate, network and share resources with other moms. "The Internet has given moms a new way to interact with one another to help nurture themselves and their families," Lilie said. "The power of exchanging information and sharing feelings, on or offline, has always been and continues to play a critical role in helping moms along their journey of motherhood."

When it comes to dads, there was quite a difference between generations. The survey found that twice as many dads are involved today than were involved in the 1960s. In fact, 52 percent of today's dads are involved in baby's bath time routine, and 67 percent are involved at bedtime, according to 2005 U.S. Moms Report. According to BabyCenter, dads today are involved from the start. Across the different age groups, dads are active and engaged. From attending most doctors' appointments, to decorating the nursery and pampering mom with a massage, they are taking their role as a parent seriously.

Take Time for Yourself!

Today's moms are more likely to say they need activities besides being a mom, while '60s moms were more likely to make time to care for themselves.

Reading and watching television ranked as top free time activities amongst both groups. Moms today are more likely to use the Internet and exercise, while moms in the 1960s were more likely to bake, garden and knit.

Trust Your Instincts.

Both groups of moms overwhelmingly agreed that they trust their own parenting instincts, even if it's not what other moms are doing.

Be a Perfect Mom for Your Child.

While a mom's intuition is an invaluable resource, both groups of moms agreed that parents should discipline their children, explaining to them why there are certain household rules and what behavior is acceptable. Ironically, each group of moms thought the other group "was not strict enough."

Every Mother Is a Working Mom!

While both groups of moms would prefer to stay at home while raising kids, today's moms are more likely to want to stay at home full time, whereas yesterday's moms said that they would have wanted to work or have other activities in their free time.

Happy to Be Me.

Happily, the majority of both groups would not switch places with the other. However, one-quarter of the younger generation reported wishing they could switch. Both groups agreed that they have it easier than their own mothers did.

So who will the mothers of future generations run to for baby advice? With technology rapidly changing, no one knows what the future will hold. Perhaps we will have to wait for another 100 million births before we can answer that question.

Participants in the Johnson's Baby "Motherhood Now and Then" survey were U.S. citizens at least 18 years old and one of two groups: Younger moms that had a child four years old or younger, or older moms that had at least one child born between 1965 and 1969. The online survey included 800 participants and was conducted from April 20 to 24, 2006.

For more information visit www.baby.com/300million or www.babycenter.com/prkit/pressreleases

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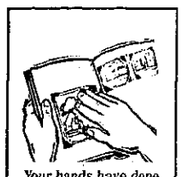
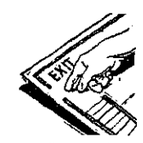


Your hands have done so much in life.



They can do so much more *for* life –

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Wag those tails

Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic keeps pets healthy

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

Curling up with a good book and two cats. Taking a walk, or playing fetch with a dog. Putting a funny hat on the family pet. There isn't anything better than pets. They share the happiest memories of life, and are still there with unconditional love even when times aren't so fun.

Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic in Northville provides the same caring, personal treatment for family pets today as it has done for more than 30 years.

LIKE FAMILY

The staff at Hidden Spring have hearts large enough to include all of their clients — humans and animals.

"We treat our clients and their pets like they are a part of our family," said Carol Geake, DVM, owner of Hidden Spring.

"I am proud of the entire staff, because they make a serious difference in the lives of so many pets and their owners," said Janet Talbot, practice manager. "We get so attached to the pets we treat and feel the heartbreak whenever a pet dies."

Some vet practices send sympathy cards to clients who have lost a pet, but the people at Hidden Spring go one step beyond that gesture.

"We make a paw print of the deceased pet in clay as a personal memento for clients to remember their pets and give it to them in addition to a sympathy card," Talbot said. "I think it means a lot to them."

TWICE A YEAR

Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic initiated a "twice a year for life" care plan to help increase the lifespan of pets. The practice has found that increasing examinations from once a year to twice a year helps educate owners and keeps pets healthier.

The practice first piloted the program with senior animals and noticed astounding results. The pets were healthier and received more preventive treatments and the owners were happier with the level of care.

The program was extended to animals of all ages, because while aging pets need increased monitoring, young pets also need thorough care for health and behavior issues.

Talbot said that families sometimes decide to give away a pet due to problems with house training, teething, scratching and other behavior issues. The veterinarians can work on behavior training with families so that problems don't get to the point where the pet is no longer welcome in the home.

Pets age much faster than humans, generally seven years to one, so it's important for pets to see the doctor more often. Bi-annual exams allow the vet to catch problems earlier so solutions are simpler and more effective.

HEALTHY TEETH

During dental health month, Hidden Spring is trying to increase awareness of dental issues in pets.

For example, hard pet food keeps an animal's mouth healthier than soft "people food." Biting into hard food cleans the teeth and helps prevent gum disease.

Pet owners should clean teeth with gauze or a pet toothbrush every day, but even a weekly cleaning is helpful. It's important to use toothpaste made for pets since it is formulated for digesting, unlike regular toothpaste. It's easiest on the animals to start when they are young. But mature animals can learn to tolerate the cleaning if it starts very gradually.

Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic uses state-of-the-art equipment for pet dental treatments. Some pets need yearly teeth cleaning while others need it only once or twice in a lifetime.

"A lot of pets will stop eating if they are suffering pain from plaque build-up on decaying teeth, or gum disease," said Talbot. "Or the dental problems could cause heart problems or other significant issues."

HELPING OTHERS

The Hidden Spring family continues to grow. The practice also operates a pet adoption service in an effort to find good homes for healthy cats. The practice now has five cats that are ready for adoption.

"These are all loving cats that need to be placed in homes as soon as possible," said Talbot. "I hope we can find them loving homes with new families."

It also recently started the Susan B. Galli Angel Fund in memory of an inspiring longtime client who passed away last fall. The fund accepts donations from the community, and will use the money to help clients who can't afford services that their pet needs, and would otherwise go without.

"Providing a fund like this can mean the difference between life or death for a pet in need," Talbot said.

DECADES OF CARE

Dr. Geake started the business 35 years ago in a small office on Eight Mile Road, just west of Beck Road in Northville. Today, the practice operates out of a large modern facility opened seven years ago at the same rural, yet convenient, location.

With open fields, and horses grazing on the property, it's a tranquil atmosphere for what could otherwise be a stressful visit. Both animals and humans feel more relaxed after a walk around the grounds, or a minute resting in the beautiful waiting area.

The veterinary practice treats hundreds of dogs, cats, small animals and some exotic pets. The clinic's staff now numbers 20 members, including veterinarians Cynthia Eichman, Kim Berrie and Barbara Scheffler.

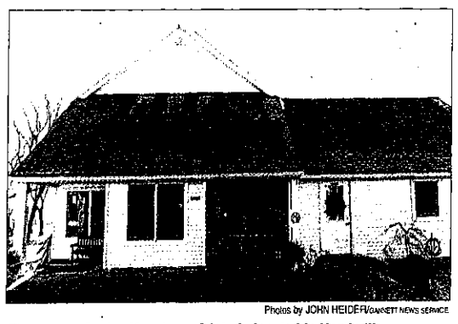
Several support staff members are licensed veterinary technicians, and have graduated, or are pursuing advanced veterinary training from Wayne County Community College.

The entire staff is pleased that Hidden Spring has been voted the best veterinary clinic for the past five years in the Northville Record People's Choice Awards. They view it as a positive indication of client satisfaction.

To make an appointment call Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic at (248) 349-2598.

With some assistance, Veterinarian Dr. Barbara Scheffler, left, examines an English Springer Spaniel at Northville Township's Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic.

HIDDEN SPRING VETERINARY CLINIC
48525 W. Eight Mile Road
Just west of Beck Road in Northville
(248) 349-2598
www.hiddenspringvet.com



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

The Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic is located in Northville Township, just off Eight Mile Road.

Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic

Hidden Spring Veterinary Clinic has been caring for the pets in your neighborhood for more then 30 years.

248-349-2598
Appointments preferred

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WE UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH YOU CARE.

Home Owners

Did you know that January 2007 is National Radon Awareness Month?

Below is important information for your review in regard to Radon. This article is intended for your understanding and the general concerns for Radon in regards to you family's health and protection. The EPA recommends that you have your home tested for Radon to help prevent lung cancer from developing due to exposure of elevated levels of Radon in your home.

You Can Not See, Smell, or Taste Radon:

1. Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that may threaten the health of individuals

2. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. (Smoking being the 1st)

3. Elevated levels of Radon is found in 1 of every 15 homes across the U.S.

4. Any home can have elevated levels of radon (even if other homes in the area do not have high levels of radon)

5. Testing for radon is simple and inexpensive

6. Homes with elevated radon measurements can be easily fixed.

7. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is supporting efforts to encourage Americans to test their homes for radon. If your home has elevated levels of radon, it can be reduced. In addition new homes can be built with radon reduction systems installed.

8. The only way to know if a home has elevated radon is to test the house. The US Surgeon General states that every home should be tested. We offer radon testing using the Sun Nuclear continuous radon monitor. The benefits of using a continuous radon monitor are quicker radon test results, and they provide hourly reporting for levels of radon, and provide additional features on the machine that discourage test interference.

Randall Patterson

If your home has elevated levels of Radon, it can be reduced to a safe level for your family!

Information on Radon is available from the following website: http://www.epa.gov/radon

Radon in your home:

More than 20,000 deaths annually have been contributed to Radon Gas.

Radon is not caused by the age of the home, materials in the home, or style of house. It comes from a radioactive decay of uranium in the soil. Typically Radon Gas enters the home through the foundation, around floor drains, sump pumps, wall cracks, etc. The process to measure for Radon Gas in your home is simple.

A Continuous Radon Monitor is place in the lowest livable level of the home. A test requires a minimum of 48 hours. We typically test for 60 – 72 hours duration. You can live in the home during the measurement process. The exterior windows and doors must remain closed. Normal entry/exit is fine. Normal use of the Heat & Cooling is recommended.

If your home has elevated levels of Radon Gas it is a simple fix. A ventilation stack with a fan that runs 24 hours a day is installed. This will pull the Radon gas from the soil, under your foundation, and safely vent it to the exterior where the wind blows it away. It is also recommended that cracks in the foundation floor, walls, and slabs be sealed.

The system is typically installed using your sump crock which also has the cover sealed. Professional Radon Mitigation Companies provide a guarantee that the levels of Radon will be reduced to a level in accordance with EPA safe guidelines. (2 pCi/L or below)

Elevated levels of radon can be fixed. Don't allow levels of radon to be a health concern for your family.

Call us to have your home tested for elevated levels of Radon to ensure your family's health and protection.

Randall Patterson
Certified Pillar To Post®
NAHI-CRI Home Inspector
Member AARST
(248) 755-3422
Toll Free: 877-787-3800

Randall Patterson is a Certified Home inspector with Pillar To Post® and a NAHI-CRI serving Western Oakland and Livingston Counties.

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Perfect clothing comes from a perfect fit

Alexander's Custom Clothiers provides fine suits, expert tailoring

By Kate Phillips
SPECIAL WRITER

ALEXANDER'S CUSTOM CLOTHIERS
124 W. Main St.
Downtown Northville
(248) 349-6080
www.alexandersclothiers.com
Hours: Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday and Monday by apppointment

The key to a smart suit is a great fit. At Alexander's Custom Clothiers in Northville, Alexander Hamka is part tailor — part artist.

"My job is to make sure you get a *perfect* fit," said Alexander.

FITTING A SUIT

A beautiful suit looks terrible if it is ill-fitting. And it can look even worse with sloppy tailoring.

"I make sure that made-to-measure suits fit like a custom suit," said Alexander, whose careful tailoring is in demand throughout the area.

The Northville tailor looks at the current trends and makes sure that clients get the fit that looks right on them, and keeps them looking updated.

Alexander was recently invited to be on the cutting team for a line of suits carried in his store. He'll soon be traveling to Montreal to provide input on the new designs.

The tailor suggests clients wear a suit that fits well when they come in for a suit fitting. It helps him take accurate measurements, and get an idea of what the client is looking for, or wants to avoid.

"I ask people about the clothes they normally wear," said Alex. "What they like or dislike about their wardrobe can help me introduce them to clothing they will love."

HOW SHOULD IT FIT?

■ Collar

The collar should fit comfortably around the neck and lay smooth all around so the jacket doesn't bubble up in the back.

■ Sleeve length

The sleeve should cover the entire wrist plus show one-quarter inch of dress shirt sleeve.

■ Jacket length

The jacket length shouldn't exceed more than three-quarters of an inch below your thumb, when your hands are at your side.

■ Trousers

Trouser length should fall one-quarter inch above the heel of shoe.

■ Lapel

All lapels should lay smooth with a natural roll when jacket is buttoned — not flat.

CHOOSING WELL

Not just any suit will do.

A black suit just isn't quite right for an everyday business suit or important interviews. It looks better at more social occasions, such as weddings, Alex said.

All in all, the mainstay of a business wardrobe should be charcoal gray and navy suits, in solids or pinstripes.

"Then accentuate your wardrobe with a suit in an earthtone," said Alex. "Earthtones make you feel good and add character and zeal to your wardrobe."

Part of Alexander's job is to make sure that customers get what they want and need. He asks customers questions about their preferences, lifestyle and the type of work they do — whether they sit at a desk, are in front of a group or drive to client sites throughout the day.

A durable wool will look good even when getting in and out of the car a dozen times a day, Alex said. If the suit is for an interview or important presentation, perhaps a fine, soft cloth would make a big impression. A beautiful suit with luster and heavy draping could be perfect for social occasions.

DRESSING TO ACHIEVE

During hard economic times, Alex believes it is crucial to dress well at work.

Those who wear fine suits that compliment their body type are perceived as more professional, capable and hard working, and leave clients with a good impression of the company. Clients, coworkers and management will see a well-dressed employee or business owner in a different light. It could make a difference in keeping a job, getting promoted, or winning a big client account.

"If you are trying to move up into a managerial position, dress for that job, so people will start to notice you, and realize that you belong in that position," said Alex. "Companies need people in key positions who can produce volume, and have good customer service, and the way you look says a lot about you."

Alexander offers wardrobe and image consulting at his store or at client's home. He drives to a clients home or office with hundreds of swatches and photographs to create just the right clothing. Alexander steps into a crowded closet and helps weed out outdated clothing, replacing it with new clothing that coordinates with the remaining pieces.

NOT ORDINARY CLOTHING

Alexander's Custom Clothiers can partner with those who are starting a new fitness routine. The right suit will help a client look like they've already lost weight, then the clothing will look even better once weight is lost.

Alex helps create custom suits that complement the body shape of each client. Practically every piece of the suit is hand stitched to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Custom dress shirts made of fine materials add just the right touch and are extremely comfortable for all-day wear.

The men's clothier also offers high quality made-to-measure suits ranging from $495 to $1,500. The store has many styles and colors in stock to fit every size and build.

The store carries fine clothing that isn't found elsewhere, like full canvas suits with functional sleeve buttonholes by Jhane Barnes.

Alex can help clients find ties they love, that look good on them too, from a colorful collection by Peter Carl Faberge. The early 20th century German was the imperial jeweler to the Czar of Russia and world-famous artisan of Easter eggs and other objects of art.

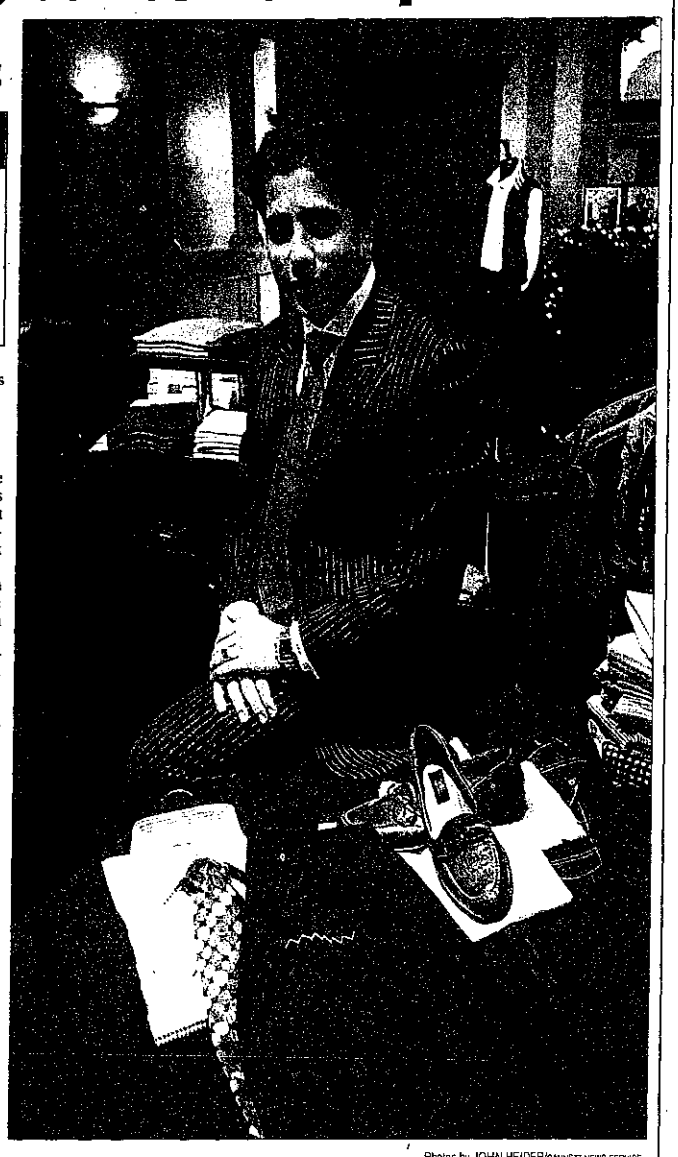
Alexander's Custom Clothiers stocks a full-line of Italian garments like jackets, slacks, dress shirts, sports wear, sleep wear, shoes and accessories.

MANY THANKS

Alexander's recently celebrated its one-year anniversary of business in Northville. Since the store opened in the fall of 2005, the community has embraced the downtown store.

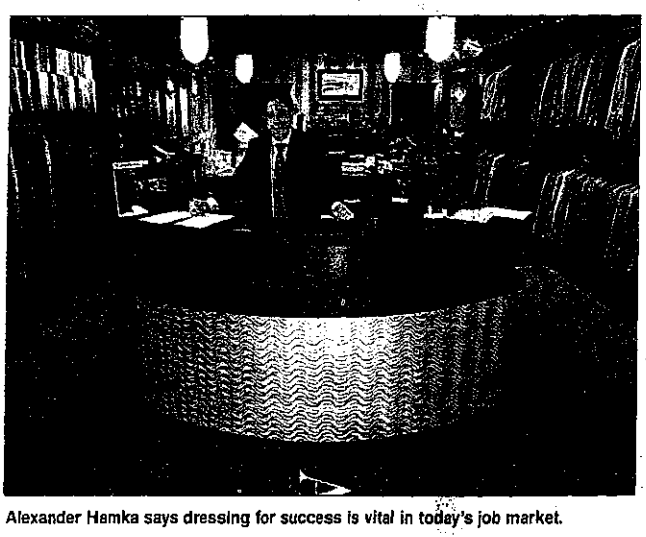
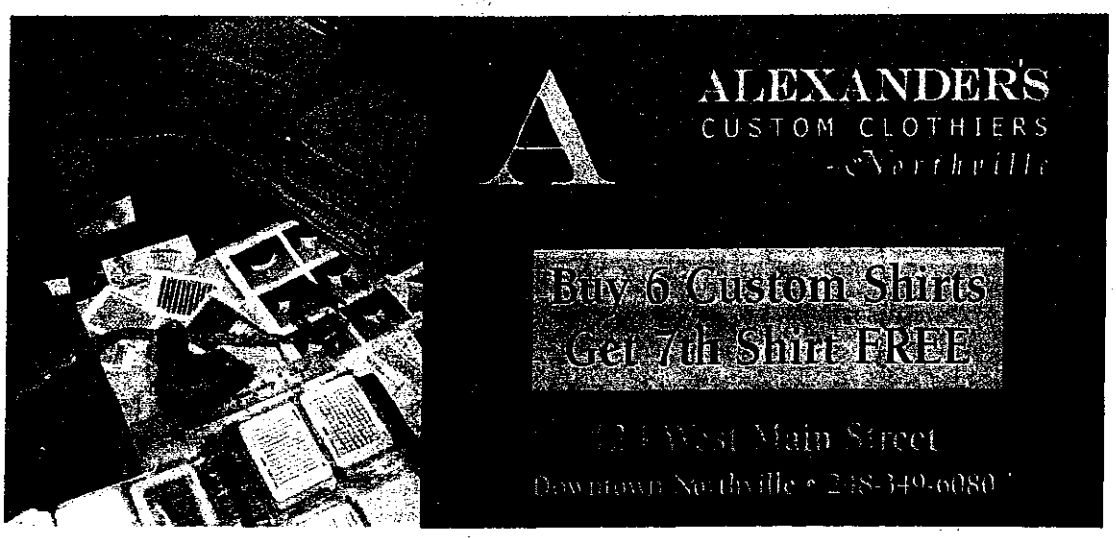
"I'd like to thank all of my customers who have supported me for this outstanding year," said Alex.

"It's been wonderful."



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Alexander Hamka offers handstitched Jahne Barnes dress shirts with Faberge ties at Alexander's Custom Clothiers in downtown Northville.



Alexander Hamka says dressing for success is vital in today's job market.