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NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

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PAGE 1B

• FRIDAY

Novi Theatres presents "Divine Stella Devine" 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. This is a comedy about a bad takeoff of "Gone With the Wind." There will also be 2 p.m. weekend matinees. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Call (248) 734-0400.

• SATURDAY

Come to the Michigan Color Guard Circuit Winterguard and Drumline Competition from 1:50-10 p.m. today at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road. The event promises to be an entertaining competition featuring students across the state. Admission is \$6. Call (248) 449-1500.

• SUNDAY

Attend the Michigan Golf Show from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. today at the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. Admission is \$10 and parking is \$5.

• **My Novi Bulletin Board**
Novi's official events calendar.
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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER CELEBRATING ITS 51ST YEAR SERVING NOVI AND THE LAKES AREA

Novi News

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

VOLUME 51 #41 50 CENTS

Novi could land girls Catholic school

■ Facility for 700 students aims to open in 2009

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi could be getting another Catholic high school by 2009.

Plans are underway for an all-girls school for 700 students to be built next to Detroit Catholic Central. The campus would also have a convent for a Dominican order of nuns, who are expected to run the school, as well as housing for the Catholic Central priests. A cultural center and athletic fields would also be constructed.

The buildings would rise on land donated by Frank Pellerito, owner of Lakeside Oakland Development Company. He gave Catholic Central a 60-acre parcel of land for its new school, which was finished in 2005.

Lakeside Oakland also wants to build 256 single-family homes as part of the development, although they would be separate from the school, city documents said.

Novi officials met with Lakeside Oakland officials in February to discuss preliminary plans. As part of the construction, developers would pave a portion of 12 Mile near the new school.

Plans are still in the early stages and would need to come before Planning Commission and the City Council.

A 'Catholic campus'

The new school would feature architecture similar to Catholic Central's facilities, and developers want to preserve some of the woodlands in the area to give the layout a park-like feel. The specific curriculum the school would offer is unclear.

The nuns who would run the school are part of an Ann Arbor-based order, the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. The

■ **STORY CHAT**
What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM.

10-year-old group has 70 sisters and is noted for being forward-thinking. Its average age is 28 — far younger the normal age of most nuns.

When it's finished, the school would complement that 970-student, all-boys Catholic Central, creating a "Catholic campus," said Matt Quinn, an attorney for Lakeside Oakland.

Novi City Manager Clay Pearson said the new school would offer another quality educational opportunity for area residents.

"The idea is definitely something that builds upon the tradition here," he said.

Impact on public schools

Novi Community School District Superintendent Peter Dion said it was too early to deter-

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SPOTLIGHT NOVI: MY INSPIRATION

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

Life Without My Dad



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Linda Statezni sits in the Novi home she shared for years with her father Louis G. Gombasy, until he passed away at 87. Gombasy was a Pearl Harbor survivor and received the Navy Cross and Purple Heart.

■ Novi woman tells her story following father's death

By Victoria Mitchell
NEWS STAFF WRITER

When you are young, imagining where you will end up, it's never a picture of despair.

Maybe it's self preservation, likely it's natural. After all, who doesn't want to picture a happy ending?

Linda Statezni never planned her life would run a route leading to standing as the family matriarch, wondering how her fate

Bear Dad

As it stands now, the Novi woman may lose her home — on the heels of losing her father, Louis Gombasy, in January. A man who was also her best friend.

Young bonds

When Statezni was a young

girl, she shared her father's passion for patriotic service.

She joined the Civil Air Patrol, with her father nearby serving as group leader.

Statezni recalls when the pair were called to the scene of a late 1980s Metro airport crash to work on body recovery.

"It was always around 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning when they sounded the alarm," she said.

They had just pulled in the driveway in the middle of the night from one of their famous trips.

She recalls the family's grand vacations as fondly as she remembers Civil Air Patrol.

"I have seen every state there is in the U.S.," Statezni said. The family's travels also took them out of the United States, including one of Statezni's favorite

trips to Europe. "He didn't look for the main attractions, it was always something out of the way," she said. "These were fun trips he took us on."

"He always had time for his kids. Ours was never a summer home."

Statezni said they lived by her father's motto: What doesn't get done today will get done tomorrow.

No place like home

Living on Clark Street in Novi is a place Statezni calls home.

Although it wasn't in her life plan, she would only briefly leave the former summer cottage the family called home.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Village Oaks kindergartners race around the school's dual-use gymnasium and cafeteria moments before it's seated for a lunch-hour rush.

Three schools, one story

■ Bond sites share a need for equitable facilities

By Renee Gates
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Fourth-grade students eating in their classrooms because they share their cafeteria with gym

classes; students doing course work in school hallways because the classroom space is too small; and facilities working ineffectively because of disrepair.

These are among the issues, administrators, parents and teachers hope Novi residents will consider on May 8 when they vote on the \$26.4 million bond issue.

A little over \$19 million of the bond will go toward constructing additions, upgrades and renovations to Village Oaks, Orchard Hills and Parkview elementary

schools. A citizen's committee found inadequate and inequitable conditions existing in these three schools and proposed a bond solution be adopted to bring the schools up to par with the more recently built facilities in the district.

Bathroom basics

Each of the three schools will receive a separate gymnasium, a

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OBITUARY

Deborah L. Wladischkin, 55
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Bond sited schools share a need for fair facilities

continued from front page

separate art room and a separate music room. The two oldest schools, Village Oaks, built in 1973, and Orchard Hills, built in 1958, will also receive upgrades to their mechanical systems, lighting and bathrooms.

Village Oaks VOICE Vice President Chris Widner, said the upgrades would be long overdue for the 36-year-old school.

"It's definitely in need of a change like this, definitely. The bathrooms are always overflowing. The fourth grade bathrooms are just in horrible disrepair. The plumbing all around needs work," Widner said.

The mother of four has two children currently at Village Oaks. She also works at the school as a crossing guard and a lunchroom monitor.

"To have a separate cafeteria is huge for a school like this. Our custodian now has to work like overtime trying to get all the tables clean and the floors clean and mopped and swept and all the tables back up in time to get the gym class."

Widner said, "It definitely needs the additions, it really does."

Village Oaks Principal Sue Burnham estimates her school may receive more than 100 new students in the fall due to redistricting.

"You never count a body till it walks through the door," Burnham said. "Obviously, if I increase in size, that's more lunches that I have to take up to whatever it takes to continue to provide the great program that we've provided. We'll always do that, it just may look different."

Adequate and equitable lunch times

Next year, Orchard Hills will celebrate its 50th anniversary

Bond Breakdown: Gymnasium, Art and Music

Add gymnasium, art & music rooms to three elementary schools:	
Orchard Hills	\$6,072,340
Village Oaks	\$5,961,961
Parkview	\$7,000,953

SOURCE: Novi School District

and principal Paul Le Plae hopes they have a new gymnasium to celebrate in.

"As a principal I'm excited about the possibility," Le Plae said. "Our fourth-graders are currently eating their lunches in their classrooms because we need the lunch room back as a gym space in order for our students to have the same amount of gym time as the other schools are having."

"We were actually scheduling less time than the other schools in gym until this year. I felt it was important that we add the additional five to 10 minutes for each group to make sure that we were on equal time. The fourth graders have done a real good job of handling it."

The additional space from a new gymnasium would be immediately

felt and put to use, Le Plae said. "No. 1, we would have a separate gym area so we would not be subject to the lunch schedule at all. Secondly, we could do more assemblies in a bigger space, either in our gym with a stage area or in our current cafeteria area."

Orchard Hills PTO Vice President Sue Davis knows her fourth and second graders will probably not be at the elementary school long enough to benefit from a new gymnasium. But, she thinks the cause is still worth her support.

"I just think that it is very important to continue to invest in the community. I think we

need to continue to invest in our schools," she said.

A matter of space

Parkview Elementary was built in 1988, but its narrow design and small classroom size necessitated an addition he built as recently as 1994. Along with its additions, the elementary school's classrooms will also be renovated and made larger.

"That is music to the ears of 20-year veteran art teacher Jennifer Harvey. Harvey has taught art at Parkview since it opened.

"The classroom is too small to do large scale art projects like murals for fourth grade," said Harvey.

"I can't fit four kids and their paperwork on these tables. I've got kids on the tables and on the floor, which is not conducive to good art work. I need

bigger tables, which need a bigger room."

Harvey has even brought her art students out into the hallway to work on their projects.

Principal Jennifer Michos is quick to show how space is at a premium in the school, not just in the hallways but in the classrooms. Every square inch is utilized from converting the stage area in the gym to a Spanish classroom, to storing cafeteria tables in the hallway along side artwork. Space is tight.

"We've seen it better at the other elementary and so, when you look at it, all the students should be getting equal opportunities to have the same kind of ... experience."

Renee Gates is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or by e-mail at rgates@gannett.com.

Submitted photo



Cramped Quarters!

Parkview Elementary School fourth graders in Jennifer Harvey's art class are tight on space. Students have to work on their murals in the entry hallway of the school. Parkview would receive a larger art room, music room and gymnasium if the May 8 Bond vote is passed.

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MY BUSINESS

Thursday, March 8, 2007
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UNPLUGGED:

Novi CompUSA to close in Town Center

■ Store one of seven in Michigan to be shuttered

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The CompUSA in the Novi Town Center is closing as the electronics retailer retrenches its U.S. operations.

The store will close in 60 to 90 days. It's one of seven in Michigan that are closing, including all of the Metro Detroit sites and one in Grand Rapids. The Lansing store is the only one in the state that will remain open, company spokeswoman Jessica Nunez said.

Dallas-based CompUSA Inc. is shuttering 126 of its 229

stores in the United States as part of a major restructuring announced last week to improve its sagging financial condition. The company is closing older and underperforming stores. It also said many locations overlapped, causing market saturation.

"Based on changing conditions in the consumer retail electronics market, the company identified the need to close and sell stores with low performance or nonstrategic, old store layouts and locations faced with market saturation," CompUSA Chief Executive Officer Roman Ross said in a statement.

The company is also cutting costs and tweaking its corporate structure. It did not disclose the number of employees affected. CompUSA is owned by Mexican company Grupo Carso.

Liquidation sales will begin

Unplugged

•The Novi CompUSA, located in the Town Center, is closing.

•The store will be shuttered in 60 to 90 days.

•Liquidation sales are beginning.

•The store is one of seven in Michigan that's closing.

soon, Nunez said.

CompUSA has been buffeted by fierce competition from other electronics retailers, including Best Buy and Circuit City. CompUSA was founded in 1984 as Soft Warehouse in Dallas.

At least one shopper, Novi



Comp USA will be shutting this store, located in the Novi Town Center, soon.

Fire Chief Frank Smith, was saddened by the news of the closing.

"They're my expert," he said,

noting he was able to resolve an electronics problem at CompUSA after falling at other retailers.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

A foreclosure notice isn't certain doom

A foreclosure notice isn't the end of the world. Here are some answers to frequent questions.

QUESTION: What's the difference between foreclosure for unpaid taxes and bank foreclosure?

ANSWER: A tax sale can take place if you get behind on your property taxes. The tax sale can be initiated by federal, state or local taxing agencies.

Bank foreclosures can happen when mortgage holders and other lien holders who have a vested interest in loans on your property aren't paid.

Q: If I receive a notice of foreclosure, does that mean I will automatically lose my property?

A: No. Lenders stress to never assume your situation is hopeless. Many mortgage companies offer assistance plans

for owners whose homes have moved into foreclosure, such as reinstatement plans, repayment plans or allowing time for owners to sell their property. Lenders lose money when a house forecloses, so they would rather work out a plan to prevent it.

Q: How will I know when the foreclosure process begins?

A: Once foreclosure proceed-

ings are initiated, a Notice of Default will be recorded at the County Recorder's Office in the county in which the property is located and you will be notified by regular mail and by certified mail.

Q: If I've received that notice and a county sale is scheduled, is it too late to stop the foreclosure sale?

A: No. You can bring your mortgage payments current

along with all late charges, foreclosure fees, taxes and insurance premiums. If you are unable to do so, you can contact your lender and try to negotiate a plan to modify your payments. But don't wait until the last minute.

Sources: Detroit Free Press research, www.moneyintatters101.com, John M. Roberts Realty, Gannett News Service

Foreclosures soar in 2006

Macomb County 197% increase
Oakland County 94% increase
Wayne County 121% increase

Sources: Free Press, RealtyTrac Inc., Gannett News Service

Facility for 700 students aims to open in 2009

continued from front page

mine the impact of another private school on the city's public school system. He said it would depend on how much the academic offerings overlapped.

"I think it's important to compare the curriculums," he said. "The new school would likely be a regional draw, similar to Catholic Central, which gets students from more than 80 zip codes."

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 3/24/07 at 10:00 a.m. the following will be sold by competitive bidding at Estate Self Storage 21650 Novi Rd., Novi, MI.

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Roux Gerald Homes
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Office Equipment, Power Tools,
Other Misc. Items

(Space No. 615)
Clinton J. Kalich
Hand Tools, recreation Equipment,
Other Misc. Items

STORY CHAT

What do you think? Tell us at www.novinews.com.

Some Novi students also attend Northville and Walled Lake schools because of the way the district lines are drawn.

The Archdiocese of Detroit has 22 Catholic high schools. The Novi girls school would be complete for students with Livonia's Ladywood High

School and Farmington Hills Mercy High School, which are both all-girls institutions.

A spokeswoman for the archdiocese was unaware of plans for the new Novi school. Officials from Catholic Central and the Dominican sisters did not return calls seeking comment.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

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ROUGHIN' IT:

Novi Fire Department to get 'rugged' laptops

Computers will improve responses, streamline inspections

By Greg Migliore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi Fire Chief Frank Smith received an unconventional sales pitch recently. The department is buying new "rugged" laptop computers for firefighters to use on the way to emergencies. As the salesman strolled into Smith's office, he tossed the computer in front of him, spiking it off the floor dramatically — and undamaged.

It was a convincing pitch for Smith, who is sold on the technology and benefits it will offer his firefighters. Novi is using a \$75,000 Homeland Security grant to cover most of the cost of the laptops and will get at least six initially. Ultimately, fire officials want to have one in each of the department's vehicles.

The rugged laptops are designed to hold up under extreme circumstances, and the fire department is getting models similar to ones used by the military. They're lightweight, have screens that reduce glare and are partially waterproof. They cost about \$4,000 to \$5,000 each.

"It's the absolute best there is," Smith said. "We're excited about it."

'Rugged' laptops

- Novi will get at least six.
- They will be used in emergency vehicles.
- They cost \$4,000 to \$5,000 each.
- A Homeland Security grant will cover most of the cost.

during emergencies. They also will give responders background information about the site and help with medical information. Additionally, laptops will be used for inspections. The department conducted 2,291 inspections during the 2006 fiscal year.

"We have a lot of people that are out gathering information from buildings," Smith said. Firefighters are testing different models right now and hope to have them in use in three to four months.

Other communities are also turning to rugged laptops for their fire departments. Farmington Hills is phasing them in as it replaces its older, less portable computers, which are mounted in about 10 of its fire vehicles.

"We're looking forward to maximizing the potential as much as we can," Farmington Hills Fire Chief Richard Marinucci said. "This is the second Homeland Security grant Novi has received since December. Deputy Chief Jeff Johnson led both efforts."

Novi fire protection officer Gordon Poyhonen checks out one of the department's new Panasonic "Toughbooks," a \$4,500 portable laptop computer built to withstand the rugged duties of a firefighter. A salesman showed off its reliability by dropping it on the floor — and it kept working.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

"It's the absolute best there is. We're excited about it."

Frank Smith
Novi Fire Chief

Versatile laptops

Firefighters will use the laptops for communication, street mapping and locating fire hydrants.

Dunkin' Donuts offers free coffee

Dunkin' Donuts is ushering in spring with a chilly drink. The world's largest coffee and baked good chain will give away free 16 ounce cups of coffee to customers on March 21.

It's the first time Canton, Mass.-based Dunkin' Donuts has run the promotion.

Novi man joins Vector CANTECH Inc.

John Cain of Novi has joined Vector CANTECH Inc.

My Novi, briefly

As vice president of sales and marketing for its North American headquarters located in Novi.

Vector is a leading provider of software tools, embedded software components and services to original equipment

manufacturers, suppliers and other industries.

Cain received a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and master's degree from Loyola University in Chicago. Prior to joining Vector, he was a vice president with Siemens Microelectronics,

now Infineon Technologies.

Citizens Bank promotion
Citizens Bank has appointed Imad Abdulhadi to vice president of commercial banking in Southeast Michigan.

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MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 2155 Meadowbrook Rd. in Nov at 8 1/2 Mi E 485-3487-7351 - MEADOWBROOK@GANNETT.COM Worship: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 11:30 am Sunday School: 9:30 am Children's Church: 9:30 am, 10:30 am Ed W. Johnson, Interim Minister	OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 770 Briarcliff, Northville Worship: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 11:30 am Church: 349-2021 School: 348-3010 Religious Education: 349-2669 Rev. Dennis Theriot, Pastor
HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL 10 Meadowbrook Road & Haggerty Phone: 248-427-1175 Sat. 5pm, Sun. 7:45 & 10 am Holy Eucharist Sunday School & Nursery: 10 am Rev. Karen Henry, Pastor www.churchoftheholycross.com	GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Meadowbrook Worship: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 11:30 am Sunday School: 9:30 am Adult Bible Class: 8:45 am Worship: 10:00 am Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor - 349-0665
FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 4400 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Sunday 9:00 am & 10:30 am Service Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 330 112nd 8:30 am & 10:30 am Sunday Worship: 8:00 am, 9:15 am, 11:00 am & 5:30 pm (new service) Rev. Jim Cook www.unitedmethodist.org
ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 4620 10 Mile Rd Novi, MI 48124 Saturday 5:00 am Sunday 8:30 & 11:30 am Reverend George Chazy, Pastor Phone: (248) 347-7778	OAK POINTE CHURCH 50200 W. 16th Mile Novi Sunday 9:15 am and 11:15 am Cruceal, contemporary live band (248) 912-0043 www.oakpointe.org
CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 2455 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48175 Worship: Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8:15 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm Nov. 10:30 am, 12:15 pm, 7:30 pm Fr. Gabriel Bales, Pastor Fr. Robert Shuler, Associate Pastor Phone: (248) 349-3146	ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA Farmington Hills - 22922 Gail Rd - 248-474-0661 Worship: 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 11:30 am Sunday School: 9:30 am & 10:30 am Nursery Available
NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 3983 Five Mile Rd (S & Haggerty) Farmington Hills, MI 48161 Phone: (248) 420-0311 Sunday Services Matins (Orthodox) 9:00 am, Liturgy 10:00 am Rev. Fr. George M. Haggerty, Pastor www.nativitygoc.org	BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 1st of Novi Rd. to Bethlehem and see the sign that says "Bethlehem" - 248-348-2151 3330 W. 10 Mile Farmington Hills, MI (248) 478-6620 Rev. Fr. Haggerty, Pastor Sunday Morning: 8:30 & 10:45 AM Sunday School (4-12): 9:30 AM

CHURCH DIRECTORY
For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

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Hank Salla, Certified Public Accountant
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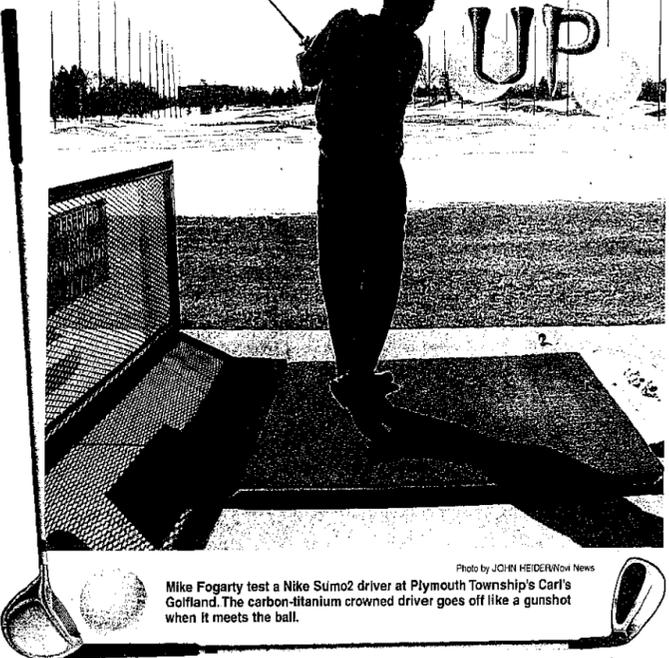
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MY LEISURE

Thursday, March 8, 2007
www.novinews.com
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Getting ready to...



Mike Fogarty test a Nike Sūmo2 driver at Plymouth Township's Carl's Golf and Country Club. The carbon-titanium crowned driver goes off like a gunshot when it meets the ball.

It's not too early to prepare for golf season

By Pam Fleming
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Brian Ashley knows that "I'll meet you at the dome," is a familiar phrase with area golfers. As owner of the Oasis Golf Center in Plymouth Township, Ashley said whether young or old, beginner or a pro, his staff can help you with your golf game.

And, Ashley said now's the time to get back in the swing of things for the 2007 golf season. "February through April is our busiest time of year," he said. "The center's new dome opened in the 2005-2006 season and is brighter, warmer and open longer than the old one."

The center opened in 1963, with the dome opening in 1983.

Voted Best Indoor Center

Oasis was voted the Best Indoor Practice Center by Range Report magazine, an industry trade publication, for 12 consecutive years.

The indoor facility features 55 tees, and it's always 63 degrees at the dome.

"It's the oldest golf dome site in North America and one of the busiest," Ashley said. "It was the second golf dome built in North America. Owners of the first one — Red Oaks in Madison Heights — lost their lease five years ago. Ashley has owned the

Get back in the game

Oasis Golf Center is located at 39500 Five Mile Road in Plymouth Township. Hours are 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Dome prices are:

- \$8 from 8 a.m.-noon Monday-Thursday,
- \$9 from noon-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday,
- \$11 from 5-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday,
- \$9 all day Friday, and
- \$11 all day Saturday and Sunday.

Instructors are on duty 10 a.m.-7:30 pm, seven days a week. Walk-in lessons are available. Call (734) 420-4653.

Changes at Oasis Golf Center

The Oasis Golf Center at Five Mile and Haggerty roads has been completely refurbished.

"We replaced the entire structure, including all the mechanicals — such as inflation and the heating system — as well as the lighting," said owner Brian Ashley. "We also refinished and repainted everything inside."

Ashley said 60,000 new Top Flite balls were also put in play at the double-decker dome last season.

Camp Mirage awaits juniors

Oasis Golf Center used to include a 14-hole, par-3 golf course. But when owners lost the lease on the property, most of the golf course was sold off to be developed.

"That left us with about five acres of land," Ashley said. Four years ago, he and his staff came up with a plan to develop the property and turn it into a day camp for golfers age 7-13.

Last year, Hour Detroit magazine rated Camp Mirage the number one day camp in Metro Detroit out of 28 camps. This year will be the camp's fourth season.

"Last year, we had 1,500 kids," Ashley said. "And, this year we expect about 2,000. Our repeat rate is about 90 percent."

The center also offers pre-camp and post-camp activities for junior golfers whose parents work.

The camps take place from 9 a.m.-noon, but parents can leave their children at the facility until as late as 6 p.m. The center offers

Exotic locales becoming golf destinations

Travelers hit the links in Europe, Mexico and Dominican Republic



By Maureen Johnston
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Avid golfers reluctant to wait for their local course to thaw are heading south and east.

Brookside Travel owner Jim Ebelhart said golfers ready to hit the links in the next few weeks visited his Novi Road agency to book trips to destinations overseas, in lieu of domestic locales like Myrtle Beach.

People who planned ahead are headed to golf hot spots like Scotland, Ireland, Cancun, Jamaica and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, he said. They scheduled March and April trips well in advance.

"Now is the time to plan your summer golf," Ebelhart said. "But you can get wonderful deals in May — and it's not that hot."

"We do get some last-minute golf deals."

Amidst the flurry of customers planning vacations to coincide with schools' April spring break, the Brookside Travel staff fielded airfare requests for golf trips, Ebelhart said.

"One thing I've found out, they research the golf courses," he said. "They are the people going specifically for that."

"Golfers are a whole breed of their own."

Ebelhart said he typically talks to players looking for challenge or a unique experience based on their ability. His agency makes the travel arrangements after they've found courses they'd like to explore.

"I don't want to be the one specifically telling them (where to go)," he said. "To that end, when people visit Brookside Travel with the intent of giving a gift package as a gift, he suggests a gift certificate."

"Then, they can choose where they want to go," he said. "They want to do something unique."

Golf Stretches

Stretching should be done slowly without bouncing. Stretch to where you feel a slight, easy stretch. Hold this feeling for 5-30 seconds. Move a fraction of an inch further into the stretch until you feel a mild tension again. Hold for another 5-30 seconds.

- Stretch #1:** With arms overhead, stand up and then slowly bend forward from the hips until you feel a slight stretch in the back of your neck. Keep knees slightly bent. Let neck, arms and hands relax.
- Stretch #2:** With arms overhead, hold the elbow of one arm with the hand of the other arm. Keeping knees slightly bent, gently pull your elbow behind your head as you bend from your hips to the side. Hold for 20 seconds; do both sides.
- Stretch #3:** Place hands on hips, feet pointed straight ahead with knees slightly flexed. Turn your hips as you look over your shoulder behind you. Hold for 10-15 seconds. Stretch both sides twice.
- Stretch #4:** In a standing or sitting position, interlace your fingers above your head. With palms facing upward, push your arms slightly back and up. Hold for 15 seconds.
- Stretch #5:** Stand with knees slightly bent in your best "ready to hit" position. Gently hold onto the back of your left elbow if right-handed, opposite if left-handed. Slowly pull your elbow forward your right shoulder as you rotate your hip into a hitting position until you feel an easy stretch in the back of your left shoulder. Keep head still; hold for 15-20 seconds. Do twice.
- Stretch #6:** Use a golf club to stretch arms, shoulders and upper back and chest. From a standing position, grab your club at each end and with your arms straight, bring the club up, over and behind your head. Hold for 20 seconds. Do twice.

Note: If you have had any recent surgery, muscle or joint problems, consult your health care professional before starting a stretching or exercise program.

SOURCE: Excerpted from GOLF STRETCHES, \$22.00, Bob Anderson, illustrated by Jean Anderson, Stretching Inc., 1-800-333-1897, www.stretching.com. Reprinted by permission.

Where to go for equipment

Carl's Golfland is located at 44135 Five Mile Road in Plymouth Township (734) 354-9274 and at 1767 S. Telegraph in Bloomfield Hills (248) 855-8035. Hours are 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday.

Other local golf shops include Golf Tech at 41300 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi (248) 426-2266; GolfSmith at 17615 Haggerty Road in Northville Township (248) 374-5601; and Motor City Golf Classic Shop, 430 N. Telegraph in Dearborn (313) 273-8300.

Used golf equipment can be found at Play It Again Sports, 24287 Novi Road, (248) 449-4544 and 2nd Swing, 43448 West Oaks Drive, Novi, (248) 374-0938.

Michigan Golf Show at Rock Showplace this weekend

Itching to swing a club? This weekend, the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi is hosting the nation's largest golf show featuring more than 500 local, national and worldwide resorts, retailers and specialty exhibitors.

Who: Open to the public
 What: Seven acres of indoor exhibits
 Where: Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi
 Cost: \$10 for adults; kids 12 and under free.
 Hours: 2-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.
 Expected attendance: 32,000-38,000
 Highlights: A golf simulator courtesy of RealGolf and Shooters Golf Tour; longest-drive contest; treasure chest contest allowing attendees a chance to win thousands of dollars in equipment, apparel and resort packages.
 New this year: Free pancake breakfast 10-11 a.m. Sunday morning
 For info: www.michigangolfsow.com.

OPENING: How soon can you tee off?

Brae Burn Golf Club 10860 Five Mile Road at Napier (734) 453-1900, Plymouth Open: As soon as possible	Fox Hills Golf Club 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth (734) 453-7272 Open: Classic Fox courses open year-round; Golden Fox open April 1 weather permitting	Links of Novi 50395 W. 10 Mile Road (248) 380-9585 Open: Tentatively April 1	Lyon Oaks Golf Club 52251 Pontiac Trail, Wixom (248) 437-1488
Meadowbrook Country Club 40941 Eight Mile Road, Northville (248) 349-3600 Open: Clubhouse reopens March 30; course reopens weather permitting	Northville Hills Golf Club 15565 Bay Hill Dr., Northville (734) 667-4653 Open: Weather permitting, hopefully in two weeks	Oasis Golf Center 39500 Five Mile Road, Plymouth (734) 420-2228 Open: Open year-round; dome will be off about the end of April	Salem Hills Golf Club 8810 W. Six Mile Road, Northville (248) 437-2152 Open date: April 1
St. John's Golf and Conference Center 44115 Five Mile Road, Plymouth (734) 453-1047 Open: When weather breaks, possibly two weeks to a month	Tanglewood Golf Course 53303 W. 10 Mile Road, South Lyon (248) 486-3355 Open: Restaurant opens March 17; course open when weather permits		

NEXT WEEK: Take a closer look the technology upgrades Novi schools want.

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

MY EDUCATION

Thursday, March 8, 2007 www.nov11news.com fax: (248) 349-9832

CLASS NOTES

Student Community Service Awards

The Optimist Club of Northville/Novi is offering \$500 awards to area youth through its Student Community Service Award Program...

Walled Lake Schools Parenting Fair

Walled Lake Schools will hold the annual Parenting Fair Saturday, March 10 at Walled Lake Central High School...

Novi Co-op Preschool

Novi Co-op Preschool is hosting an open house 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, March 31 at the school...

Novi Meadows Fun Fest

Novi Meadows Fun Fest 2007 is coming up March 23. Two days...

OBITUARY



DEBORAH LYNN WLADISCHKIN

Age 55, of Howell, formerly of Novi, died Sunday, March 4, 2007. She was born June 5, 1951 in Detroit...

(Vandercook) DeVoss of Tawas, MI; siblings, Dale (Sylvia) DeVoss of Ann Arbor, Larry (Pam) DeVoss of Florida...

OBITUARY POLICY

The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a charge of \$1 a line. Photos may be published for \$25...



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Sixth grade teacher Katherine Ellis hands out blue ribbons to her class to honor of Novi Meadows' selection as an exemplary school for its academic achievements by the Michigan Department of Education.

EXEMPLARY ACADEMICS

Novi Meadows receives state Blue Ribbon Award

By Renee Gates NEWS STAFF WRITER

In the eyes of the teachers and administrators at Novi Meadows Elementary, they were already an exemplary school.

"I know how fabulous Novi Meadows is," Ellis said. "I had no problem knowing we could accomplish this."

Marianne Makarley. "These were several of us that would provide information on certain areas," Makarley said.

high school. Other schools have taken ownership of it. "It feels good, but we've kind of felt that way all along, and worked toward that every year," Makarley said.

New merit test debuts for high school juniors

Educators explain new state test

By Renee Gates NEWS STAFF WRITER

From March 13-16, Novi High School juniors along with their classmates across the state will endure two to four days of mandatory testing while taking the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).

"This is the debut year for Michigan's new standardized test that replaces the M-STEP for high school juniors."

ACT and MME

The MME has three components, the ACT Plus Writing, WorkKeys and Michigan math, science and social studies. The ACT section of the exam is free, and scores can be used toward college admissions...

Michigan Merit Exam Do's...

- Be on time for the test
• Bring your picture ID
• Take extra No. 2 pencils
• Eat before coming to the test

... and Don'ts

- Cell phones are not allowed in the testing facility for the ACT or MME
• Food and drink are not allowed in the testing rooms



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

High school students will be taking the Michigan Merit Exam Tuesday.

Excused absences

Novi juniors will miss class instruction time during the three-day exam. They will be exempted from graded assignments, high school officials said...

administrators said. "We'll be talking to our colleagues in other districts to get their thoughts on how their plans worked and then go forward from there," Gallagher said.

VARSITY LINCOLN MERCURY COLLISION CENTER

2 exits west of 12 Oaks Mall at Grand River and Wixom Road 1-248-449-6901 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER "BEST COLLISION SHOP" 2005

Advertisement for Varsity Lincoln Mercury Collision Center featuring services like repair, insurance, and towing.

Need to See Your Doctor, but their Office is Closed?



Visit the NEW DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Urgent Care Clinic in Novi.

AFTER HOURS URGENT CARE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

The new Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Urgent Care Clinic is conveniently located in Novi for all of your illness and minor emergency medical needs.

Advertisement for DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital showing hours of operation and location.

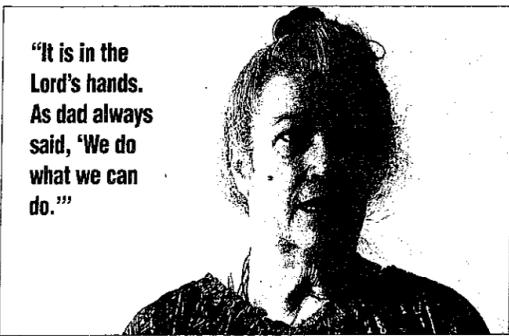
Large advertisement for Joe's Produce featuring various fresh produce items and prices.

Large advertisement for Heslop's featuring a 20% off spring sale on various items.

Advertisement for Citizens Bank Home Equity Line of Credit with interest rates and contact information.

SPOTLIGHT NOVI: MY INSPIRATION

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM



"It is in the Lord's hands. As dad always said, 'We do what we can do.'"

PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Linda Statezni talks about her father Louis G. Gombasy's survival of the Pearl Harbor attack and heroic efforts during World War II. Mr. Gombasy died in January at the age of 87.

Novi woman tells her story following father's death

continued from front page

Statezni said when her husband walked out on her, seven months pregnant, going back to Clark Street was a temporary stop. "She was welcomed by her mom and dad and young sister. Her mother had already grown and left home. He now lives in Washington state. She saved up her pennies, building a \$360 secret stash, enough money for an apartment security deposit. "Three hundred dollars was a lot in the '40s," Statezni said. "She found a place and paid her first month's rent. It was only a few days after she said, her mother was diagnosed with cancer. "How could she leave now after all of the help they gave her? She forfeited her deposit to stay and help her mom.

Tragedy
Her parents were married 42 years. The couple married on

Thanksgiving day. "I stayed, and I took care of her," she said. "It was a close family." Statezni said her mother passed away in 1974. She said she couldn't leave until her father was back on his feet. And then there was her sister to care for; she was 17 years younger than Statezni. Plans of attending nursing school were put on hold. "We just stayed together," she said. In 1976, her 14-year-old sister was killed in a drinking and driving accident on Griswold Road. Statezni said at that time it was becoming clear - this would always be home. No life plans were worth leaving her dad after losing his wife and young daughter. She would stay, and the pair would become best friends and reliant on each other.

So long friend
Statezni said as her father lay in bed before his death, he would talk and talk. "I stayed, and I took care of her," she said. "It was a close family." Statezni said her mother passed away in 1974. She said she couldn't leave until her father was back on his feet. And then there was her sister to care for; she was 17 years younger than Statezni. Plans of attending nursing school were put on hold. "We just stayed together," she said. In 1976, her 14-year-old sister was killed in a drinking and driving accident on Griswold Road. Statezni said at that time it was becoming clear - this would always be home. No life plans were worth leaving her dad after losing his wife and young daughter. She would stay, and the pair would become best friends and reliant on each other.

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hands and lifetime full of joy and sorrows.

"We figured he had about six to seven months was the prognosis," she said. "It shocked everyone that he only lasted 14 days." His daughter said it wasn't until her father's pastor returned from vacation and read a scripture saying, "Your work is done, you can relax and go home," that he passed away. "It was around 11:45 p.m. Thursday night," she said. "I went over there, and I knew he was gone."

His wish was for burial near his three friends in Arlington came true with help from the American Legion in Milford. "It was the most beautiful service," Statezni said.

Bear Dad

Now Statezni sits in the family's front room with canisters of oxygen, two wheel chairs, two walkers, a medical chair and a motorized scooter. Branson joins a growing number of seniors who are getting reverse mortgages. According to the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association in Washington, the number of Federal Housing Administration-insured reverse mortgages jumped by 77 percent nationally during the past federal fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30.

Darryl Hicks, associate director of the NRMLA, attributes the increase to several factors: "Rising household costs. "Insufficient retirement income. Many people rely on Social Security, which may not cover all of their needs. "Increased awareness about reverse mortgages.

Financial tool

Reverse mortgages aren't new. They've been available through the FHA since 1990, before that through other lenders. But for years, they've been the subject of misconceptions. Potential borrowers mistakenly thought they had to give up the title to their homes or that the government would get their

homes when they died. Now, many people use reverse mortgages as a financial planning tool, Larson said. Here's how a federally insured reverse mortgage works: "How much you can borrow depends on your age, current interest rates and the value and location of your home. "The government sets interest rates and fees. So, unlike other mortgages, it's not a case of shopping around for the best deal. "You are required to undergo mortgage counseling to make sure this option is ideal for you. "The repayment amount can't exceed the value of the home. "After the reverse mortgage is repaid, remaining equity is distributed to you or your estate. "The money you borrow can be used for whatever you want, including prescriptions, home improvement, travel and food.

Reverse Mortgage plan offers some seniors solutions

By Sue Doerfler
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

It's hard to live on \$448 a month. So Darlene Branson, 78, turned to her home equity to help supplement her monthly Social Security payments by taking out a reverse mortgage.

A reverse mortgage is a loan that enables homeowners 62 or older to borrow against the equity in their home without having to sell the home, give up title or take on new monthly mortgage payments.

Loan proceeds can be used for any purpose. They can be taken out as a lump sum, fixed monthly payments, a line of credit or a combination.

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Defining a hero

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

By Victoria Mitchell
NEWS STAFF WRITER

When Louis George Gombasy settled in to tell a story, his heroic tales recalled the fated December day his Naval carrier was bombed by the Japanese. As one of few survivors of the U.S.S. Nevada, he frequently recalled - whether with his family, school groups or Naval reunions - Pearl Harbor.

"He was proud," said daughter Linda Statezni. "He always wanted to keep our freedom. "He was considered the war hero of Detroit."

Caught off guard

As the tale goes, Gombasy was looking at a magazine when he heard thunderous noises, followed by the sighting of a rising sun.

Statezni said the bomb dropped so close to her father, shrapnel embedded in his head. "But he still commanded the courage to face his turret and assist in clearing mooring lines so the vessel could get underway.

Gombasy's efforts earned him a Purple Heart and the Navy Cross. And he never held a grudge.

"As dad says, you can't hold it against them ... As dad says, we were caught sleeping," Statezni said. "The said we were always tipping champagne, and that is how they caught us."

Other Naval accolades Gombasy achieved include being in Tokyo Bay for the signing of the Peace Treaty.

He also worked on bringing up the remains of the U.S.S. Arizona, participated in the European and Asian theaters and completed a duty in Panama. He also proudly circled the world by water, his daughter said.

Life on the farm

Gombasy had lived in his Clark Street Novi home since 1949, digging his basement by hand with the help of his wife.

Statezni said he purchased the piece of property from Mr. Clark who would only sell to veterans. Gombasy's grandparents owned a farm in Novi, where he grew up. "He spent his whole life here," Statezni said. "He loved the wife

on the farm. "Everybody liked him," Statezni said. "He was the person it didn't matter what needed to be done, he would be there."

She recalls him clanking around the house in his "moon boot" - a cast protecting a nagging foot ulcer - still helping anyone he could. His neighbor for 32 years, Patrick Downey, said Gombasy was always out on the yard.

"Louis was quite a mechanic," he said. "And he would still be working on his car on his crucifixes."

Downey said Gombasy could also fix anything when it came to welding. "So when you broke your lawn mower, you went to Louie," he said.

His patriotic passion
What Statezni said she will remember most is his love for life and passion for the military. She said he was always carrying on about his military past.

Whether it was in front of a school group, reunion or Pearl Harbor survivor group, she said he was proud to tell his story. "When we were on vacation and he'd go get ice and it would take him an awfully long time, we'd know why," Statezni said. "He'd tell his story to anyone who wanted to hear it."

But Statezni said, his recasting was never about bragging or boasting. "He never bragged about his ribbons," she said.

The only thing he may have bragged about, his daughter said, is his love for life and his family. Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or vmitchell@gannett.com.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS
Linda Statezni holds a photo montage of her father Louis G. Gombasy and his efforts during WWII and Pearl Harbor.

places we had out here. He loved the farm. "This was home to him."

For family
Gombasy is survived by a large clan, including nieces, nephews and five grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Statezni said he loved his grandchildren and spending time with them was an important part of his life.

His daughter said he loved Little League and working around the home, tinkering and building anything within reach.

She said he was her son's life, growing up in a home where he was the sole father figure. Gombasy also loved the outdoors.



A military past

Along with being a decorated war veteran, Gombasy's name is listed on the U.S.S. Nevada memorial and, according to a representative of the U.S.S. Nevada Association in San Diego, was believed to be the last living survivor.

After the U.S.S. Nevada, Gombasy was stationed on the U.S.S. Chester, followed by the U.S.S. Wasp aircraft carrier.

Later in his military career, Gombasy was in the significant position of being at the site of the beginning of the war, Pearl Harbor, and the end, the Tokyo signing.

After Pearl Harbor, Gombasy was involved in the clean-up of the U.S.S. Arizona.

He was also a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. In death, he was memorialized by the American Legion Novi Post 19, AMVETS, American Legion Post 216-Milford and the Sixtigate Composite Squadron.

Purple Heart

Authorized in 1932, a modernized version of the original Purple Heart as established by George Washington in 1782. It is awarded for combat action only, and is awarded to any person wounded in action while serving the Armed Forces of the United States. It is also awarded posthumously to the next of kin of personnel killed in action, or who died of wounds received in action after April 5, 1917.

The Navy Cross

Authorized on February 4, 1919 and awarded to officers and enlisted personnel of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps who distinguish themselves by extraordinary heroism, not justifying the award of the Medal of Honor, in military operations against an armed enemy. Originally awarded for combat heroism and other distinguished service, it was the Navy's third highest award. An Act of Congress on August 7, 1942 gave the Navy Cross precedence over the Distinguished Service Medal, making it a combat decoration only, awarded for extraordinary heroism in the presence of great danger and personal risk. It is now the second highest decoration for U.S. Naval personnel.

SOURCE: nvalnavicopierassn.org

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

MY COMMENTARY

Thursday, March 8, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Richard Perleberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Rich Ramhoff
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

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.

IN OUR OPINION What a difference a year makes

Last March, we wrote about the Greater Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce's annual fund-raiser - Cars, Cash & Casino - held for the first time at Rock Financial Showplace.

In prior years, the event was held at Burton Manor in Livonia, and it was moved to Rock to get a little closer to Brighton.

With around 2,000 people attending, the folks at Rock had their hands full last year trying to get everybody's food and drinks served quickly and keeping the room temperature up.

Well, we're happy to report that those issues were corrected at Saturday's chamber event (renamed Big Moola), and the entire evening was nothing short of spectacular.

Outside, spotlights lit up the sky above for those unfamiliar with the location. Once inside, check-in and coat check were smooth, and it was then up to attendees to go left to the main dining/dance area or right into the casino.

No gamble here - either choice was a win. Hard to believe a large exhibition hall could be dressed up that well to host a semi-formal event, but it looked incredible. Lots of large, lighted objects hanging from the ceiling helped make the giant room more intimate (and may have helped with the acoustics, as well).

There were plenty of stations where guests could buy drink tickets, and with the west walls lined with bar-tenders just waiting to serve, there was never a wait for beverages.

Multiple tables were set up for the dinner and dessert items; again, no waiting.

Back on the other side, the casino brimmed with activity - blackjack, roulette, craps, etc. Plenty of elbow room and no waiting.

Kudos to Blair Bowman and staff for jumping all over this event and all but guaranteeing it to be a well-run success. And to see his right-hand man, John Bowen, personally greeting guests (and even picking up an empty glass or dirty dish here and there) just solidified Rock Financial Showplace's commitment to hosting great events.

Out-of-town organizations, like the Brighton chamber, know what a jewel we have here. Hopefully, none of us take Rock for granted.



PHOTO OF THE WEEK

PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Detroit-bound
Students and parents got together last week at Novi Meadows Elementary to sort and box nearly 6,000 books they'd collected for Detroit's Maybury Elementary. The books will soon be brought to the school where Novi Meadows has established an on-going philanthropic relationship.

LETTERS

McCotter's Real Results

After receiving an update letter from U.S. Congressman Thaddeus McCotter of the 11th district I felt the need to respond to it. In this letter the congressman went into the detail of three different bills that he had co-sponsored during the 109th congress. They all sounded like they would be good for Michigan, but they all also died with the close of the 109th congress so none of them became law.

Now I understand that members of congress are always running for office and they may see the need to remind voters that they are doing something under their job responsibilities, but with the 109th controlled by the Republican party, and a member of that party, why would he want to remind voters that he was a member of the 109th congress? A congress controlled by republicans and dubbed the "no nothing" congress. A congress that failed to deal with pressing major issues like the projected future funding short fall of Social Security, and the on going invasion of our country by illegal aliens, just to name two and then add more to the list of things not done.

Along with saying what he worked on, and failed, while his party was in charge, is he telling us to expect less from him in the 110th congress with democrats in charge?

I suggest to Mr. McCotter, as I have before, that if he wants to get something done for the voters of the 11th district he should consider switching parties.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

Education system changes needed

Phil Power is absolutely correct that we must look at different ways to run our education system. We should root out every expense that is not core to providing education for our children. Business and some departments of government are already doing this.

Beyond what Phil proposes, I would also add: Privatize all non-core functions such as transportation, janitorial services, and outside maintenance. Go beyond consolidating non-essential functions into Intermediate School Districts and question whether we need as many ISD's as we have. We could lessen the administrative overhead of ISD's if we had Regional School Districts, each encompassing several ISD's. Along those lines, question whether we really need 549 local school districts. While the State should regulate medical coverage with the Teacher's Union, the Union should not be allowed to dictate where the insurance is purchased. Let the State find the lowest cost provider consistent with the coverage that Phil stated, definitely link pay to performance.

I'm sure there are many more good ideas. Definitely we need to change the system as it exists, because the trend of resource vs. need is not favorable.

Rick Bond
Novi

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.
 Mail: Novi News, Letters to the Editor, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167
 Fax: (248) 349-9832
 E-mail: cstone@gannett.com
 Deadline: Letters must be received by noon on Tuesday to be published in the Thursday edition.



GOT A STORY IDEA? Contact the Novi News (248) 349-1700

Cal Stone
(248) 349-1700, ext. 113
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Thursday, March 8, 2007
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COMMUNITY

Michigan needs to invest in its research universities to rebound

Any company in big-time trouble has to do two things: First, cut costs to the bone. That's the rule one for survival. But no company can prosper without driving up sales of its major product lines.

Therefore, the second rule for any struggling concern: Launch a long-range investment program designed to strengthen your most competitive, durable and proprietary assets.

Doing that equips you to compete, and maybe even thrive.

And the tragedy up to now is that Michigan has done neither.

We've had plenty of chances. Over the years, we could have radically cut costs by restructuring state government. We could have closed prisons and taken a hard look at our generous state pension and health care benefits. We could have slashed wasteful overhead costs in school districts and overlapping local government units.

But we didn't do that. We could have faced the fact that Michigan led the nation in job losses for the entire decade, 1995-2005. These numbers could have told us, had we cared to analyze them, that the long term auto manufacturing base of our economy was in desperate trouble.

But we didn't. We could have taken serious, far-reaching steps to fix the chronic billion-dollar-plus structural deficit in the state's General Fund. But we didn't do that either.

Instead, over the last five years we adopted a series of one-time accounting gimmicks that never got to the heart of the problem and merely patched the state's finances together with the fiscal equivalent of chewing gum and balling wire.

And we could have, meanwhile, taken a hard look at what kind of Michigan we wanted to construct over the next decade. We could have



About Phil Power

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. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@cmnet.com.

Identified our durable, distinctive competitive assets and launched an investment program to feed those assets and regain our competitiveness. But again, we didn't do that either.

Instead, we starved our university system, especially the research universities. We short-changed the environment that sustains our marvelous quality of life. And we cut back on investing in human capital - the brains and skills of our people.

So when Gov. Jennifer Granholm comes back to Lansing from her tour around the state, she won't find things much different in Lansing than when she left. And when House Speaker Andy Dillon and Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop finally sit down to thrash out what needs to be done - pronto - to resolve a billion dollar hole in the state budget, they won't have time to do much more than apply more chewing gum and balling wire to the balance sheet.

It's too bad, because all three of our top leaders are smart and sensible people, trying to do their best with an impossibly difficult situation. But they're as locked in as anybody else by a pervasive lack of long-term strategic thinking about our state's future.

Yet there is one thing that happened last week which is cause for a glimmer of optimism, and that's what the three research or "constitutional" universities did last week.

They came together and proposed that University of

Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University be separately funded from the other 12 public universities in the state.

The big three argued that the research universities in fact drive a lot of the state's economic future. They noted that state funding for their institutions has experienced something like a net 14 percent cut in state support since 2001.

"Here we are," said WSU President Irvin Reid, "the three research universities, bringing in in excess of \$1.3 billion in federal, state and business research grants annually to the state... And we are spending that here in the state... we're not only creating jobs... we're creating knowledge, which hopefully will lead to more jobs."

The core of the argument for supporting research universities is a powerful one: Collectively, they return \$36 to the state for each dollar of state support. "You find me another place where the state invests \$1 and gets \$21 (she meant to say \$26) back," U-M President Mary Sue Coleman told the Detroit Free Press.

The presidents pointed to the "Research Triangle" in North Carolina as an example of what can happen over time. Fed by three high quality research universities - Duke, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University - the triangle today hosts 157 companies, some 50,000 direct and contract employees and an annual payroll of around

\$2.8 billion. For years and years, Michigan's leaders have oddity recorded on spending money on research universities as an expense, not an investment.

You can't get much more wrong-headed than that. If we're going to get anywhere, the corporation known as the State of Michigan needs to figure out what kinds of long-term investments we need to make in order to survive and compete.

Our great universities are a terrific place to start.

Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? Is your business heading in an exciting new direction, celebrating an anniversary or moving? If so, we want to know.

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LET'S TALK

WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN
 GEMOLOGIST

STEP BY STEP

While the brilliant cut was developed to best utilize the potential of diamonds' fire and brilliance, the step cut is generally used to best show a gemstone's color. Also known as the rap cut, the step cut has a square or rectangular table (top) facet and a girdle (middle) facet. The girdle facet is surrounded by a series of parallel, flat, raised facets. The number of these facets is determined by the size of the gemstone. British gemstones, such as emeralds, have their corners truncated. This gives rise to the modified step cut known as the "emerald cut." As many of these corners are removed, the outline of the cut may more closely resemble an octagon, appropriately named the octagon cut.

A cut above the rest at WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI, we're much more than just a jewelry store. We are a premier of diamonds, a treasure of emeralds, a provider of beauty. No wonder we love what we do! For jewelry of understated elegance to pieces proclaiming the boldness and beauty of today's contemporary creations, you're sure to love what we do. We have a new idea always fine-tune the shop when there's a place like 41990 Grand River Ave. in Novi. We're open Tues. Wed. & Thurs. 10 am-6 pm, Fri. 10 am-8 pm, Sat. 10 am-5 pm. P.H. 248-347-0033. We are located by the city of Novi to offer loans on jewelry.

PS: In pleochroic gemstones, which exhibit different colors in shades of colors when viewed from different directions, the gemstone will be set out to show the best color when viewed from the table facet.

Quality education next door - our community colleges

One tremendous academic and economic asset Michigan has is its system of community colleges. Northville residents are fortunate to have Schoolcraft Community College and Oakland Community College minutes from their doorsteps.

The 28 other community colleges across our state, are golden rings within your grasp. Of my first 17 years of formal education, my start at a Community College shines brightly in my memory. The dedicated teachers, small group instruction and focus on teaching and learning helped me build a solid foundation of success.

Clearly, Michigan is blessed with a great university system. But our community colleges are the unsung heroes, providing a stepping stone to excellent careers and continuing education.

They provide the first boost up the post-secondary education ladder that leads to greater earning power and, often, advanced degrees.

From Schoolcraft Community College to the Oakland Community College system, to the far reaches of the western U.P., our community colleges are touching the lives of countless students and workers returning to school to upgrade their

skills to compete in this fast-paced, transformational, disruptive, global economy while serving as incubators for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Community colleges provide the setting for investment in human capital and fuel for the economic engine of our state to help make us globally competitive. Gov. Jennifer Granholm rightly sees our community colleges as economic leaders, aids to help the far-too-many knocked down workers be lifted off the economic floor. Granholm has called for the No Worker Left Behind program to provide the thousands of affected workers with the opportunities they need to acquire new skills to transition to the jobs of the new economy.

If our system of community colleges in Michigan did not exist, there would be a massive rush to create them. The community college next door may be the one-stop-shopping for a new career as Michigan seeks to readjust to the economic tsunami that has overturned so many lives in the auto industry - from the people who wear white collars to the men and women in blue collars, steel-plated shoes and ear plugs on the factory floor.

Making a difference in a number of ways
 • **Training and retraining of Michigan's workforce**
 There are a number of jobs that did not exist a few short years ago. For Michigan to remain competitive, it is critical that our workforce continually upgrade its knowledge and skills. Community colleges across the state are helping in this effort by providing on-demand training while working with business, healthcare and industry to provide adaptable and industry-specific training. Their goal is to make our workforce competitive and agile.

• **Provide a fast track to new careers**
 Through certification and associate's degrees, our community colleges can place students on an accelerated pace to obtain the skills and training they need to survive and thrive in this tough economy. In spite of the high unemployment statistics across the state, there are many fields, e.g., health care, nursing, auto mechanics and information technology, that are clamoring for quality workers.

• **Michigan Technical Education Centers**
 These education and training centers take the concept of school-to-work to a new level, bringing workforce pre-

paredness skills to employers across the state. These programs are preparing workers for jobs that exist the moment they complete the programs. Through the M-TeC Centers, our community colleges are educating students in fields that need quality workers today and tomorrow.

• **Michigan Virtual Learning opportunities**
 Life long learning is a mouse click away with the Michigan Virtual Learning Program. With the fast-paced lives that many students lead, it is critical that education and training be available at any time, any place and at any pace. Michigan community colleges offer virtual classes to students from any community college across the state, while students receive important support services from their "home" campuses. This innovation allows students to access courses while completing degrees from the comfort of their homes.

• **Stepping Stone for an advanced degree**
 Staying even is falling behind. Today, with global competition, it is critical that all of us continue to learn - from the cradle to the grave. Not only do community colleges provide on-the-job training, certificates and associate's degrees, they also

provide a solid foundation for continuous learning at a fraction of the cost of a four year institution of higher learning. This provides a greater access to the first rung on the academic ladder that is often elusive to many first-generation college attendees.

• **Just for Fun and Lifelong Learning**
 I am taking a Mandarin Chinese class at Schoolcraft Community College currently. The instructor, Michael Su (or Su Lao still is phenomenal and the learning with the diverse mix of students from students and traditional college attendees is exhilarating.

Advantages of community colleges are many. They include highly qualified instructors, enhanced lifetime learning potential, lower cost, convenience and accessibility, immediate skill building that transfers into economic benefits for working students, and college credits easily transferred to universities.

As Michigan prepares for the 21st century knowledge economy, where an educated work force is vital to our very survival, our community colleges must be viewed as a linchpin in our strategy to compete on the global stage.

Our community colleges - the true Statue of Liberty
 Our community colleges, along with our public schools, are the true statues of liberty in this great country of ours. They take the tired, the hungry, the poor and huddled masses and give

them hope and opportunity. I know because I, like many others, was one of Michigan's many first-generation college graduates who toiled on the assembly line at Ford's Rouge plant. If it were not for Henry Ford Community College, I would have not had the opportunity to attend college and hold jobs otherwise not attainable.

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Hey Novi! Let's Talk About It - In Story Chat!

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"No way! This time our elected public officials really let us down. I won't forget this come election time."

SPOTLIGHT ON: ALLERGY & ASTHMA

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

DOES MY CHILD HAVE ASTHMA?

Most likely, you know some children with asthma, and you may wonder if your child's one of them. If you notice your child coughing (constantly or occasionally), wheezing or whistling when he breathes, or he has shortness of breath, your child may have asthma. Chest tightness is another

HOT TICKET: Novi Theatres presents "Divine Stella Devine" this weekend at the Civic Center.

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MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, March 8, 2007
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EVENTS

S.V.S.U. Alumni Gathering
DATE: Today
TIME: 5-7 p.m.
LOCATION: The Post Bar, Novi
DETAILS: Saginaw Valley State University is hosting an after hours event for metro Detroit alumni. The evening will feature complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvres. R.S.V.P. required by Monday, March 5.
CONTACT: (989) 964-4196, or e-mail alumni@svsu.edu.

City of Wixom Beach Night in Paradise
DATE: Friday
TIME: 8 p.m.-midnight
LOCATION: Wixom Community Center, 49015 Pontiac Trail
DETAILS: Come dressed for the beach and enjoy dancing and appetizers. Cost is \$20, adults only. Cash bar available. Preregistration with Wixom Park and Recreation required.
CONTACT: (248) 624-2650

Novi Theatre Presents "Divine Stella Devine"
SCHEDULE: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: This production is a comedy about a fictional production company that's putting on a very bad takeoff of "Gone With the Wind." Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and available at the Novi Civic Center. Student ticket price is \$10 for the Friday performance.
CONTACT: (248) 734-0400

Michigan Color Guard Circuit Winterguard and Drumline Competition
DATE: Saturday
TIME: 1:30-10 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi High School
DETAILS: This is an entertaining competition of high school Winterguard and Drumline groups from the area and across the state. Admission is \$6.
CONTACT: (248) 449-1500

Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-A-Thon
DATE: Saturday
LOCATION: Novi Bowl
DETAILS: Support for this event is needed from the community. Lane sponsorships, donations for gift bags and monetary contributions are all appreciated. Contact the Youth Assistance office for more information.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Real Estate Career Seminar
DATE: Monday, March 12
TIME: 9 a.m.
LOCATION: Real Estate One offices, Main Street, Novi
DETAILS: All are invited to attend a free seminar on a career in real estate. Call to register.
CONTACT: Kathy, (248) 348-6430

Novi Oaks Chapter of the American Business Women's Association
DATE: Wednesday, March 14
TIME: 6:15 p.m. networking, 6:45 p.m. dinner
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel, Novi
DETAILS: Joseph Pascarella will do a presentation on "Entrepreneurial Motivation: Overcoming Business Challenges." The cost is \$16 per person.
CONTACT: Marcia Applegate (248) 593-5269 or www.abw-novi.org

Book Club Meeting
DATE: Friday, March 16
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Starbucks, 302 East Main St., Northville
DETAILS: The book for March is "Rabbit Run" by John Updike
CONTACT: northvillebookclub@gmail.com

Democrats of West Oakland County
DATE: Tuesday, March 20
LOCATION: Novi Souvlaki and Kabob Restaurant, 31150 Novi Road at 14 Mile
DETAILS: The program will be Dr. Kathryn Savoie, Ecologist, who will present a slide show on

the issue of global warming. Question and answer session to follow.
CONTACT: Jim Gualdoni, (248) 624-7228

Walsh College Alumni Association Speed Networking
DATE: Thursday, March 22
TIME: 6-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Gus O'Connor's, 42875 Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: Network with other professionals one-on-one a few minutes at a time. The cost is \$15 for Walsh College students and alumni, \$20 for general public, which includes appetizers. Preregistration is required by March 16.
CONTACT: alumni@walshcollege.edu or call (248) 823-1241

Walled Lake Central's "The Man Who Came to Dinner"
DATE: Thursday, March 29; Friday, March 30; Saturday, March 31
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake Central High School, 1600 Oakley Park Road, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$7 for seniors and students. All seats are reserved. Tickets can be ordered by calling the number that follows after March 18, and can also be purchased at the door.
CONTACT: (248) 956-4750

Teens Aiding the Cancer Community Fundraiser
TIME/DATE: Sunday, April 1
LOCATION: Rebecca's, downtown Northville
DETAILS: Enjoy acoustic artists, food, ice cream and raffle. TACC is a non-profit student organization raising money to fill backpacks with toys for cancer-affected kids in area hospitals.

Novi Woods Montessori Center Open House
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 31, 6-7 p.m. Monday, April 2
LOCATION: 42800 W. 13 Mile Rd.
DETAILS: Montessori infant, toddler, preschool and kindergarten programs offer an enriching curriculum that includes these foreign languages: Japanese, French, Spanish.

Novi High School Reunion Classes of 1974-1977
DATE: July 28
DETAILS: A combined class reunion is being planned for the four graduating years.
CONTACTS: Laurie (Maier) Butler, class of '74, lbutler@motorcityhaley.com; Claire (Salow) Klingelhoefer, Class of '75, clarek1@comcast.net; Leigh (Tarczy) Guzewski, Class of '76, lguzow@alumni.nmu.edu; Patty (Pohlman) Mayer, Class of '77, mayer123@comcast.net

Novi High School Reunion Class of 1987
DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11
DETAILS: More information coming.
CONTACT: Call (323) 467-0642 or NovHigh@gmail.com

LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, serving 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 unified voice on behalf of the business community, provide a forum to discuss and review topics of interest, serve as a source of information and development programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.
CONTACT: (248) 628-2826

Evening Connection
DATE: Tuesday
LOCATION: Dream Diners, 1001 Welch Road, Suite 105.

Commerce Township Annual Membership Luncheon and Installation of Officers
DATE: Wednesday, March 28
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Edgewood Country Club, 8399 Commerce Road, Commerce Township
DETAILS: Come to hear our community leaders speak on the business environment of West Oakland County. The cost is \$25 per person.

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

Threads of Power Breakfast
DATE: Friday, March 23
TIME: 8 a.m.
LOCATION: Wyndham Garden Hotel, 42100 Crescent Blvd., Novi
DETAILS: Bring you gently used business attire that will be donated to men and women entering or re-entering the workforce. The cost is \$15 per person. Advance paid registration required.

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 members' services and products and the activities of their community. For more information, contact: Whitney McClellan, executive director, at (248) 347-4622 or wmgcnc@yahoo.com. For event listings, check: www.greaternovichamber.com.

Business Accelerator Luncheon
DATE: Today
TIME: 11:30 a.m. registration; noon lunch
LOCATION: Rook Financial Showplace
DETAILS: Special guest Dennis Archer will speak. Cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for not-yet members. R.S.V.P. by March 6.

After Hours Mixer
DATE: Thursday, March 15
TIME: 5-7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Moe's on Wixom, Wixom Road, 3/4 mile north of I-96 on the east side.
DETAILS: Enjoy great food and networking. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for not-yet members. R.S.V.P. by March 12.

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, jhubbard@walshcollege.edu

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Healing Arts



Cookie, anyone?
Manager Kathy Jackson doles out a few chocolate chip cookies at her Twelve Oaks Mall Nestle Toll House Cafe. The cafe, which opened a few weeks ago, offers cookies, of course, and lots of coffee and hot cocoa beverages.

LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455
Wanted: One-Time 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.

Novi Co-op Preschool Open House
DATE: Saturday, March 31
TIME: 10 a.m.-noon
LOCATION: Novi Co-op Preschool is located in the Novi United Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Teachers will be available to answer questions. Open enrollment has begun for the 2007-08 school year.
CONTACT: (248) 349-3223 or go to www.novipreschool.com

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Monday, March 19
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
DATE: Tuesday, April 3
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: Novi Meadows Elementary
Faith Community Preschool
LOCATION: 44400 West 10 Mile Rd.
CONTACT: (248) 349-7911

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.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720
Story Times
DETAILS: Session 4 begins Feb. 26 through March 30. Brochures available in the library for further information.

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Mastering the Mouse for Seniors
DATE: Today
TIME: 10:00-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: This class is for seniors to help them learn how to use the computer mouse. Registration required.
Novi Knitters

DATE: Monday
TIME: 6:30-8 p.m.
DETAILS: Drop in for an informal knitting group in the Youth area of the library. Knitters of all levels are welcome.

Starlight Story Time
DATE: Tuesday
TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.
DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration needed.

Reading-Maniacs
DATE: Wednesday
TIME: 4:30-5:15 p.m.
DETAILS: Children in third and fourth grade are invited to come and discuss "The Word Eater" by Mary Amato. No registration needed.

Introduction to the Internet for Seniors
DATE: Wednesday
TIME: 1-3 p.m.
DETAILS: Comfortable use of the mouse is required for this class. Registration required.

Real Estate and Mortgage Fraud
DATE: Thursday, March 15
TIME: 7-8 p.m.
DETAILS: Ruth Johnson from the Oakland County Clerk's office will discuss the growing problem of deed and mortgage fraud and what you can do to protect yourself from these two fast growing crimes. Registration required.

Sign, Say and Play
DATE: Saturday, March 17
TIME: 10:30-11:15 a.m.
DETAILS: This program is for babies 8-24 months. Sing songs, read book and engage in parachute play while learning six popular signs with Baby Signs instructor, Lori McLaren. Registration required and there is a limit of 15 children with parent or caregiver.

AARP Tax Day
TIME/DATE: 10:20 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday, March 19
DETAILS: AARP volunteers will be available to assist middle and low income individuals in preparing their taxes. Special attention will be given to persons age 60 and older. Assistance is limited to simple tax returns. Appointments are necessary and usually run for one hour. Call the library to schedule an appointment.

PageTurners
TIME/DATE: 4:30-5:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 21
DETAILS: This is the book discussion group for fifth and sixth graders that will be discussing "Project Mulberry." Snacks and games included. No registration required.

Library Board Meeting
DATE: Wednesday, March 21
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Novi Civic Center

Novi Knitters

Novi Senior Center
Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road
Friday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Duplicate Bridge
1 p.m.: Bingo
Message by appointment
Wednesday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
10:30 a.m.: Quilting
11 a.m.: Blood Pressure
11 a.m.: Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Clogging Club
1:30-2:30 p.m.: Sing-a-long
2-4 p.m.: Estate Planning by appointment

9-11 a.m.: "Line Dance-Intermediate"
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
11 a.m.-noon: Computer Lab
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Focus Hope/TFAP Distribution
1 p.m.: Bingo in Activities Room
1-3 p.m.: "Ask the Lawyer" by appointment
1-2 p.m.: Computer Class-Beginner
Message by appointment
Wednesday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
10:30 a.m.: Yoga
1-2 p.m.: Computer Class-Beginner
1:30-3 p.m.: Book Discussion
2:30-3:30 p.m.: Line Dance
Message by appointment
*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Phone (248) 347-0414.

6-30 p.m.: "Clogging (Reg./Easy/Int.)"
7:30 p.m.: "Clogging"
Message by appointment
Thursday
9-11 a.m.: "Line Dance-Int."
9:30 a.m.: Travel Meeting
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: "Line Dance-Beg."
noon: Lunch
12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge
1-2 p.m.: Yoga
1-2 p.m.: Computer Class-Beginner
1:30-3 p.m.: Book Discussion
2:30-3:30 p.m.: Line Dance
Message by appointment
*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Phone (248) 347-0414.

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
DATE: Last Wednesday of each month
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) 380-0988.

HOT TICKET: Parkview Elementary students host a Jazz Music Concert tonight at the school

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



MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, March 8, 2007
www.novnews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

NOVI SENIOR CENTER

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9-11 a.m.: "Line Dance-Intermediate"
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
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1-3 p.m.: "Ask the Lawyer" by appointment
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2-4 p.m.: Estate Planning by appointment



Photo by Russ Gales

And a one and a two!
Parkview Elementary fourth graders in Susan Hoy's music class tune up in preparation for their Jazz Music Concert tonight at 7 p.m. in the Novi High School auditorium. From left: Mikayla Timson, Claire Kalina and Chitra Lakshumanan.

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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 2/27/07. Minimum opening balance is \$500, maximum is \$2,500. Annual deposits are not allowed during CD term. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal on CD. A \$100 penalty will be imposed against CD balance if checking account is closed before CD term. CD term expires CD available for new checking account customers (no existing regular checking account or existing Flagstar checking account) and previously enrolled in, but now leaving, the Flagstar Loyalty Program by establishing a monthly automatic payment or direct deposit. Rate effective for a limited time only. Offer cannot be combined with coupons or other special offers. Account fees could reduce earnings. Not available for public utility CD withdrawals may apply. Please contact your local Flagstar banking center for more information.

Friendship Circle
DATE: Second Thursday of each month
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between 1st and Beck Road
DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
CONTACT: Norbert Monson (248) 851-6730, Florence Vought (248) 477-8032 or Joy Lovaldt (248) 348-9138 or joyvald@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: jansungfleming@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: (248) 437-5496 for more information.

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Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center

Women's Prayer Support
DATE: Saturday
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 Wednesday 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: 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

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@grounddetroit.biz
Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.
Special Lenten Discussion Series
TIME/DAY: 7 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: The topics to be discussed will include a critique of

Get a Leg Up on Summer

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Northville	Sunrise of Northville	734-420-4000	16100 Haggerty Road

Assisted Living Alzheimer's Care

For more information and a FREE online newsletter, visit www.sunriseseniorliving.com

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FAITH

HOT TICKET: For a Complete Calendar Listing, visit www.novineews.com

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

MY BULLETIN BOARD

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the sermon from the previous Sunday, and some current issues in the news with the question being asked, "What is the faith dimension?" The public is encouraged to attend.

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., 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/DATE: 12:10-12:50 p.m. Wednesday 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 www.holyfamilyofnovi.org Mass Schedule TIME/DAY: 7:30, 8:45, and 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. Sunday: 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday: 5 p.m. Saturday Bible Study DATE: Thursdays TIME: 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. DETAILS: Join the group for prayer, study, and discussion of the Sunday scripture readings. CONTACT: Maria (248) 349-8847 or e-mail at spiritwalk-er001@aol.com Addictive Parent Networking MEETING DATE: Last Wednesday of each month

St. Paul Lutheran LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville CONTACT: (248) 349-3140 Sunday Worship TIME: 8:30, 11 and 11:30 a.m. Kindergarten Registration DETAILS: Children who turned five before Friday Dec. 1 may register for full or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

St. James Catholic LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 347-7778 Mass Schedule TIME/DAY: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday: 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday: 7 p.m. Wednesday: 5 p.m. Saturday

Novi United Methodist LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 Sunday Worship TIME: 9:45 a.m. Lenten Soup Potluck and Choir Presentation TIME/DATE: 5 p.m. Sunday, March 25 DETAILS: The Chancel choir will present Mozart's "Te Deum" which will be followed by a soup potluck. All are invited.

First United Methodist of Northville LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or www.lumcnorthville.org Sunday Worship TIME: 8, 9:15, 11 a.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.

Career Ministry Meetings DATES: Sunday TIME: 1:30-3 p.m. DETAILS: The Career Ministry program is to help meet the needs of job seekers and others in career transition. It is free of charge and is focused on providing career development resources, programs, and networking opportunities to anyone in the Northville/Novi area.

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.crosspointeadows.org Sunday Worship TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

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

Faith Community Presbyterian LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or www.faithcommunity-novi.org Sunday Worship TIME: 9, 10:30 a.m. Muskingum College Choir Concert TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Sunday DETAILS: The concert will include a blend of sacred and secular music from the Renaissance to the present. There is no admission, but a free-will offering will be taken.

Divorce Recovery Workshop DATE: Beginning March 22 DETAILS: The course will run through May 10. The cost is \$35 and includes the book "Growing Through Divorce" registration required.

Swing Into Spring Dance TIME/DATE: 8-11 p.m. Saturday, March 24 DETAILS: This is for mature singles 45 and older. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Infant Massage DETAILS: This two-session class teaches parents how to offer their infant the comfort of massage.

Boost Camp Day DATE: Friday, March 23 TIME: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. LOCATION: Providence Park Hospital, Novi DETAILS: This day-long retreat is designed to provide participants with the tools, information and perspective toward living life in balance. The cost is \$50, including materials, and registration is required. CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

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List your event in our calendar!

To be included in My Bulletin Board, please send event name, date, time, location, details and contact. Mail: Novi News, My Bulletin Board, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167. Fax: (248) 349-9832. E-mail: cstone@gannett.com

CONTACT: Jane, (248) 591-0014 Adult Education TIME/DATES: 7-8:15 p.m., Thursdays, March 1-29 DETAILS: This session will deal with "Confronting the Controversies: Biblical Perspectives of Tough Issues." Pastor Kent Olse will discuss issues such as separation of church and state, the death penalty, euthanasia and homosexuality, and how the Christian faith relates to them. A participant book may be purchased for \$10. Call the church office to sign up.

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., 34535 Grand River Ave., Farmington DETAILS: This is a walking/social group. Everyone is invited.

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Novi figure skating qualifies two for state meet ... P. 3B

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Novi hockey wins regional; cheer makes states 2B

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: WRESTLING

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

CATS' EYE THE ULTIMATE PRIZE



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Ryan Thomas (30-9), left, and Jon Lichorobiec (47-5) head to the state wrestling finals this weekend at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Thomas wrestles at 145lbs and Lichorobiec at 103lbs.

Thomas, Lichorobiec head to state finals

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Novi wrestlers Jon Lichorobiec and Ryan Thomas had completely different seasons, but both have the same vision heading into the state meet — standing on the final podium. Lichorobiec brings a 41-5 record into the semifinals or finals in every tournament this year. He's one of the top wrestlers in the state

for his weight, and he's accepting nothing but the best for himself. "My expectations are very high," Lichorobiec said. "I definitely want to place. There is no doubt about that. I'm not going to take no for an answer." "We've been working for (the state meet) all year. We trained and worked out all off-season, trying to get better, and it's finally paying off." Lichorobiec said wrestling with Justin

Pullin and Ryan Thomas has helped him improve on a daily basis. "It's helped me a lot," he said. "The fact that I'm the smallest out of all of us and I wrestle all of them, their body weight alone makes me a better wrestler." "They beat on me, and occasionally I get to beat on them."

See **WRESTLING**, 2B

What is **SPORTS SPOTLIGHT**? Each week, the Novi News takes a closer look at Novi athletes. Have a suggestion? E-mail: jtheisen@gannett.com.

AT NOVINNEWS.COM: NOVI WILDCATS SPORTS SCHEDULE. CHECK IT OUT!



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Mike Longo puts up a shot against a Catholic Central defender during Monday night's playoff game played at Canton High.

Novi cagers knock off CC

Wildcats outlast Shamrocks 49-46 in district opener

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

STORY CHAT

What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

Novi basketball fought off Catholic Central 49-46 Monday to advance in the district tournament at Canton.

"We pulled it out, but CC played really well," Novi head coach Pat Schluter said. "That was the best I've seen them. They were prepared. Give their coach a lot of credit. Bill Dyer is a class guy. I know they've struggled this year, but he's a great coach."

The Shamrocks used six first half three-pointers to claim the lead after the first and second quarters.

Novi clamped down the defense and allowed just four second-half field goals.

"I was not happy with our defense at all in the first half," Schluter said. "We gave them 29. The second half was a lot better as we gave up 17."

Caleb Dean scored 17 points, and Brandon Bradford tallied 11 points to lead the Wildcats.

"Caleb has matured a lot," Schluter said. "He's pretty much our go-to guy. He's playing harder the last five or six games. That's been the key to our success."

Dustin Hess scored 10 to lead the Shamrocks. Chris Bellamy added eight points for the Wildcats.

Novi played Plymouth yesterday. With a win, the Wildcats will face the winner of Northville/Canton at 7 p.m. Friday at Canton. A Wildcat loss will end their season.

See **BASKETBALL**, 3B

WEB EXTRA! GAME UPDATES AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM
PHOTOS • SCORES • STANDINGS • SPORTS SCHEDULES • STORY CHAT



NOVI NEWS Athlete of the Week

Novi senior Shawn Baxter, Hockey

Baxter had a big offensive week during the Wildcats run to the regional title. He recorded two assists in a 3-2 win in the title game against Lakeland and scored a goal in the 5-2 rout of Plymouth.



On The Move

Getting ready for spring

It may not seem like it when you head outdoors but spring is right around the corner. Despite the recent cold and snow, we have had a pretty mild fall and winter for running outside—at least until mid-January.

Then there was the Super Bowl 5K in Novi with a temperature of -5 degrees and a wind chill of -25.



This brought on the hardest for cross-country 321 runners in the area. But with extra layers of clothing, heavy duty mittens or gloves, a variety of face masks and/or hats, and a little Vaseline on exposed skin, everyone survived and had a good time. There are a number of fun-running and walking events held in the area during the winter months. They provide an excellent opportunity to stay active and get ready for the spring season. Check out the schedule on RunMichigan.com.

Plan Ahead

If you have not already done so, now is the time to set some running goals for 2007. Your goals should be as specific as possible. Some suggestions are:

- A new distance to run.
- A particular race to participate in.
- A specific finish time.

Or for marathoners: qualifying for the Boston Marathon. And remember, your goals are not necessarily the end point. Most of the time, they are stepping stones toward more challenging goals. Over time, my goals evolved from running a 5K to a 10K, then a half marathon, a full marathon and subsequently to qualify for Boston. My current goal is to run a marathon or half marathon in every state. This is also a good time to plan your race schedule for the year—at least the major events. Having a specific event on the calendar is an excellent motivator.

Keep a Record

A training log is very helpful in keeping on schedule and measuring progress. Typical entries include: day, distance, time, course, weather, and how one did or felt. There are numerous training logs available online, at running stores or through running magazines. A calendar also works well.

Website of the Month

Have you ever wondered what your finish time in a particular distance equates to for other distances? Check out runnersworld.com and go to the "Training Calculator" in the "Training" section. I found it to be quite accurate.

Upcoming Events

Here are two fun events to consider:

- Sunday, March 11: It is time for the St. Patrick's Parade Cooktown Races with the Kids Quarter Mile at 11:30 a.m. and the 1.5 Mile Walk and Four Mile Run at noon. All events start near Tiger Stadium. The races are followed by the St. Patrick's Parade down Michigan Avenue. (www.downtownwarriors.com/cooktownraces.htm)
- Sunday, April 1: The Martian Invasion of Races comes to Dearborn and Hines Drive. The marathon and half marathon start at 8:30 a.m. and the Meteor 10K is off at 9:00 a.m. There is also a Kid's Mini-Marathon and a 20 mile training run. All events start at U of M Dearborn. (www.martianmarathon.com)

Northville resident Jerry Mittman is an avid runner and was appointed as Oakland County Fitness Ambassador by Gov. Granholm. He has completed over 590 races, including 55 marathons. He can be contacted at jim997@hotmail.com.

NOVI PUBLIC CLUB REGIONAL CHAMPIONS

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The Wildcat hockey team clawed their way to a regional title with a 3-2 win Friday against Lakeland at the Novi Ice Arena. Scoring for Novi were sophomore Paul Fatorio, Jeff Donahue and senior Kyle Potocki (two assists). Shawn Baxter tallied two assists in the win.

The Wildcats faced Milford on Tuesday. With a win, Novi will advance to play March 8 at Commerce Area against the winner of quarterfinal 5.

In earlier regional play, the Wildcats torched Plymouth 5-2. Novi controlled much of the play, getting off 35 shots to Plymouth's 15.

Goals were scored by Andrew Haggerty (2), Baxter, Donahue and Adam Szajner.

Novi Cheer
The Novi competitive cheer team smashed several school records in qualifying for the state tournament Saturday at the regional meet in Southgate.

The Wildcats finished runner up to Southgate-Anderson. The Titans scored 734.3 points to win, and the Wildcats were far off with 728.5. Myndyone finished in third and did not advance to the state finals with 719.6 points.

"It was an amazing record-breaking day," Novi head coach Family Parker said. "I am so proud of these incredible hardworking young ladies."

The Novi records broke include highest first round score with 199.5, breaking the 2003 record of 195.5 (KVC tournament); highest second round score with 217.5, replacing the old record of 205.5 set against Hartland on Jan. 18, 2006; highest third round score with 311.5, bettering the 308.5 set March 5, 2005, at the regional meet. The final record is the overall team score, smashing the old record of 692.5 set this season against Hartland.

Novi and Southgate advance to the Division 1 state finals 6 p.m. Friday at the Delta Plex in Grand Rapids. All other divisions compete on Saturday.

Novi Volleyball

The Novi volleyball team won its district Saturday at home, advancing to regional play against Farmington Hills Mercy.

Novi started district play with a 25-14, 25-19, 25-11 victory. "The girls did a wonderful job every day, and every one contributed to the district championship," Novi head coach Julie Fisetle said.

WRESTLING: Next stop: State individual finals

continued from 1
Quick recovery

Thomas' way to the state meet was something altogether different. A broken ankle suffered in the Oakland County meet in mid-December almost ended his season. Doctors told him he might be in a cast up to eight weeks. Throw in some physical therapy and that was pretty much the end of the year—not to mention trying to get back into shape.

Thomas had the cast pulled off in four weeks and was back in action well before the given prognosis. He fought his way back into shape and says he turned the corner at the league meet.

"I came back around the Lakeland dual (Jan. 19)," Thomas said. "It was tough because I was having troubles with it and I was out of shape."
"Once I got back into the groove, everything was just going for me. I took second in the KVC championship, and I felt pretty strong. That's where I felt I was back to normal."

Today's matches

Lichorobiec will be first on the mat for Novi. He faces Davison freshman Brandon Stuart (44-9) in the first round in match 16.

"I'm really fired up. I can't wait to make it this far because I didn't think I was going to bounce back from my injury this quick."
"It's the first time I've ever been to state, so I'm pretty excited," Thomas said. "I didn't think I was going to make it this far because I didn't think I was going to bounce back from my injury this quick."

The opening ceremonies begin at 2:15 p.m. with wrestling beginning at 2:45 p.m. The state meet continues Friday at 11 a.m. and Saturday at the Palace of Auburn Hills.



Novi's Matt Quay, left, tries to maneuver past a Lakeland Eagle.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Stephane Cripps recorded six kills, two aces and five blocks, and Kim Hildreth had 10 assists and four aces to lead the Wildcats. The final win came against Walled Lake Northern, 25-14, 25-18, 25-23.

Highlights included Meghan Goldsmith and Paige Janer led the way with 8 kills and three aces each, and Lauren Pandy with nine kills and two blocks.

Lauren Farley had eight aces on the day, while Hayley Miller had a total of 17 digs. "I was asked at the beginning of the year, 'What goals does your team have?' I believe my response was that we were going to work hard, play together, and let the chips fall where they may...I have to say, second place in the conference and the first district title achieved at home is quite good," Fisetle said.



The Novi cheer team smiles after qualifying for the state tournament.

Submitted photo

fourth-place finish (solo dance, preliminary-Canasta tango). The state meet is March 31 at the Detroit Skating Club.

For breaking news on the Web: www.novinews.com

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NOVI WILD JV / PREP HOCKEY CLUB 2007 SPRING TEAM TRYOUTS

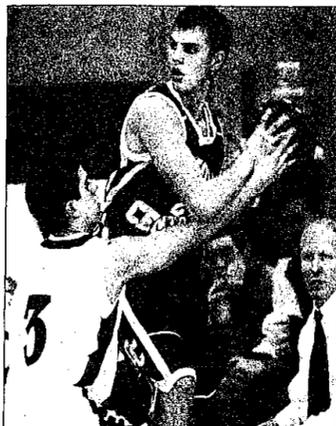
Saturday March 17, 2007
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SUBURBAN TRAINING CENTER

Sunday March 18, 2007
11:00AM - 12:30PM
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PLEASE NOTE LOCATION OF ALL TRYOUTS

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Coach: John O'Leary
QUESTIONS: Contact Paul Flavin - 248-380-5142 OR Email - noviwild@yahoo.com
Member of the South East Michigan Prep Hockey League



As his coach Pat Schluter watches at right, Wildcat Dan Reichley pressures a Shamrock guard at the top of the key during Monday night's playoff game at Canton High.

Photos by John Heider/Novi News

BASKETBALL: Wildcats advance

continued from 1B

"We're young, but I thought my seniors played very well," Schluter said. "Adam Chandler and Mike Longo played really well. Chandler hit a big three in the first half and free throw to go up three (late)."

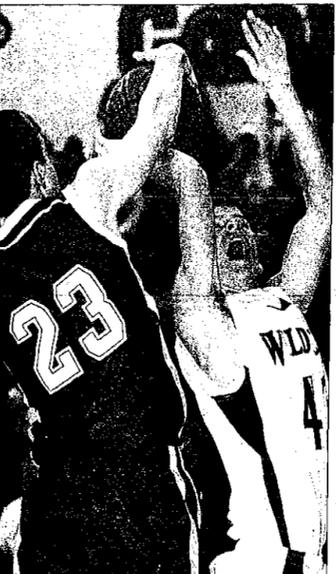
The second-round game was yesterday against Plymouth. A win puts the Wildcats in the district

finals 7 p.m. Friday against the winner of the Canton/Northville game at Canton.

Regular season wrap-up

The Wildcats dropped a 64-41 decision to South Lyon in a game that meant very little as the Lions had already sown up the KVC title.

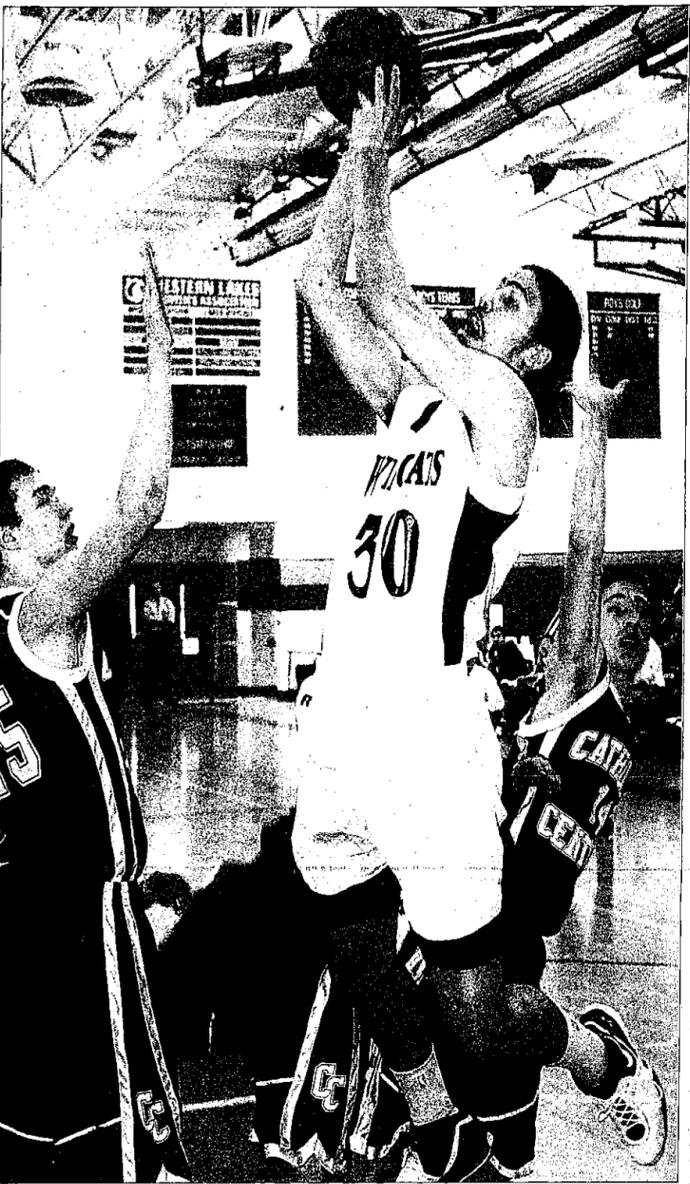
Novi beat Howell in the final regular season game, finishing fourth in the KVC. South Lyon won the league with an 11-3 record, followed by Lakeland and Hartland at 9-5 and Novi at 8-6.



Wildcat Miles Reichley, called up from the JV squad, sees his shot blocked by a Catholic Central defender during Monday night's district playoff game.

Novi's Caleb Dean shoots above Catholic Central defenders during Monday's district game.

Districts



CC stopped by Hartland

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central's bid for a team title came to an end with a 37-27 loss to Hartland on Friday at the team state tournament in Battle Creek.

Shamrock freshman Doug Eldridge started the mat with a pin, 5:26 into the match.

Hartland won the next two matches by pin to take over the lead.

Trevor O'Connor picked up the next CC win at 125 pounds with an 8-4 decision.

Shea Hasenaur pulled off the upset of the night, beating returning state champion Owen Wilkinson 9-7 in overtime. It was Wilkinson's first loss of the year.

Hartland took over the match with three straight wins, a pin, a technical fall and a decision for a 32-12 lead.

The Shamrocks came back, winning four of the final five matches, but the hole was too big



Matt Aubrey, top, controls his Hartland opponent during the team state tournament.



Catholic Central's Joe Kinville works above his Hartland opponent during the team state meet.

PHOTO GALLERIES: See more of photographer John Heider's work at www.novinews.com

TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via **Story Chat** at novinews.com

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MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, March 8, 2007
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Tempting FLAVOR PAIRINGS

Make Main Dishes Shine

FAMILY FEATURES

Good things come in pairs, and flavor is no exception. Professional chefs know the secret to combining sweet, hot, tangy, salty, bitter and sour for crave-worthy dishes, and now everyday cooks are discovering this concept as well. The right combinations can turn basic main dish meals into tasty adventures. With a greater variety of ingredients and influences at our fingertips — in restaurants, grocery stores and on TV cooking shows — experimenting with flavor pairings has never been easier or more exciting.

Crystallized ginger and salted pistachio, maple and wasabi, and toasted mustard and fennel seeds are among the trendiest flavor pairings, according to the "McCormick Flavor Forecast 2007."

The palate-pleasing combination of salty and sweet goes upscale with crystallized ginger and salted pistachio. While it is an ideal pairing for desserts, the dynamic duo is equally delicious in main dish recipes, such as *Ginger-Pistachio Crusted Chicken With Tangerine Sauce*.

Watch out when wasabi and maple — the ultimate in sweet heat — team up. Accented by ginger and garlic, *Maple Wasabi Glazed Salmon* features an exciting twist on teriyaki. This combination is also great for enhancing the flavor of stir-fries, ribs and chicken.

Though their appearance is tiny, when mustard and fennel seeds join forces, the result is a mighty punch of flavor and texture. For a light, delicious main dish salad, try *Fennel and Mustard Seed Crusted Shrimp With Apricot Dressing*. Toasting the seeds adds depth to their flavor.

For additional recipes and more information on this year's Flavor Forecast, visit www.mccormick.com or call 1-800-MEAL-TIP (1-800-632-5847).

Home Owners Do You Know Five Dangerous Hazards in your Home?

Increasingly, home-owners are learning the inside story on how hazards found inside homes can pose threats to their family's health.

The items identified below are important reasons homeowners, and homebuyers, need to have the home thoroughly tested by a certified home inspector. Not only are certified home inspectors able to detect such problems, but we have access to experts who can remedy the issues.



Here are a few hazards to understand and have the home tested for:

- **Radon**, a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas, can be present in surrounding soil and can penetrate into the home. The radioactive particles radon creates can damage your lungs and cause lung cancer. The only way to know if your house has radon is to test the house. If the home has elevated levels of Radon there is a simple and relatively inexpensive solution to remove the radon, but it is not a do-it-yourself project.

- **Asbestos** is a fibrous material used in construction because it's durable and fire retardant, but it has also been identified as a cancer-causing substance. Asbestos can be found in insulation, around pipes and furnaces and in vinyl tiles and flooring materials. When it's moved, tiny asbestos fibers are released into the air and can be inhaled. Once ingested, asbestos fibers can lodge in the lungs. Surveying the home and removing the asbestos should be done by trained and certified professionals. Have your home checked if you are unsure if you have any Asbestos issues.

- **Hazardous wastes** are potentially dangerous materials, such as pesticides or fertilizers that were not properly stored or disposed of. Some hazardous wastes can cause death even when ingested in small amounts. Other hazardous wastes have been linked to elevated levels of cancer, permanent damage to organs, respiratory difficulties, skin rashes, birth defects and diseases that attack the central nervous system. Removal methods depend on the type of waste. Be aware of these issues when storing materials in your garage, etc.

- **Well water contamination** occurs when hazardous chemicals seep down through the soil into underground water supplies. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control reports an average of approximately 7,500 cases of illness linked to drinking water in the United States each year. Faulty septic systems can also contribute to this hazard. The only way to know if your water is contaminated is to test it. We provide both Well Water testing and Septic System inspections that will identify any issues. You will receive Peace of Mind in knowing the conditions of these systems for your family's health.

- **Air Quality** Did You Know? According to the Environmental Protection Agency, your indoor air can be two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. Homeowners can identify and know the existing conditions of the air in their home. Having a home air quality test completed will detect and identify any possible health hazards in the home. You will receive a detailed report which identifies the type of molds that are present in your home. Mold spores in your home may cause your family to have various health related issues.

Call us to have your home environmental testing completed.

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Fennel and Mustard Crusted Shrimp With Apricot Dressing

Fennel and Mustard Crusted Shrimp With Apricot Dressing

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: 5 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

- 1 tablespoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Mustard Seed
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Fennel Seed
- 1 teaspoon hot water
- 1/8 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Ground Turmeric
- 1 pound extra large shrimp (16 to 20 count), peeled and deveined
- 1/4 cup apricot preserves
- 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
- 1 tablespoon light soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse sea salt
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 4 cups field greens

1. Heat a small skillet on medium heat. Add mustard and fennel seeds; cook and stir about 2 minutes or until fragrant. Immediately pour out of hot pan to avoid over-toasting. Finely crush seeds using a small food processor, a clean coffee grinder, a rolling pin or a mortar and pestle. Pour into small bowl. Stir in hot water and turmeric. Let stand 5 minutes. Coat shrimp evenly with seed mixture.
2. Mix apricot preserves, lime juice, soy sauce and sea salt in small bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Set aside.
3. Heat oil in large skillet on medium heat. Add shrimp; cook 3 to 5 minutes or just until shrimp turn pink, turning once. Divide greens among 4 serving plates. Top with shrimp. Serve with apricot dressing.

Maple Wasabi Glazed Salmon

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 20 minutes
Makes: 8 servings

- 2 teaspoons McCormick Gourmet Collection Wasabi Powder
- 1 teaspoon water
- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- 1/3 cup thinly sliced green onions
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Garlic Powder
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Gourmet Collection Ground Ginger
- 2 pounds salmon filets

1. Mix wasabi with water in small bowl until well blended. Add remaining ingredients, except salmon; stir until well mixed. Place salmon in 13- by 9-inch baking dish. Spoon wasabi mixture evenly over salmon.
2. Bake in preheated 375°F oven 15 to 20 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a fork, basting occasionally with wasabi mixture.

Ginger-Pistachio Crusted Chicken With Tangerine Sauce

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 20 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

- 3/4 cup shelled salted pistachio nuts
- 1/4 cup McCormick Gourmet Collection Crystallized Ginger
- 1/3 cup tangerine or orange juice
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten

1. Place pistachios and crystallized ginger in food processor; process until mixture is chopped. Stir tangerine juice, honey and soy sauce in small bowl with wire whisk until smooth. Set aside.
2. Place chicken in foil-lined shallow baking pan; brush chicken with egg white. Coat evenly with ginger pistachio mixture.
3. Bake in preheated 350°F oven 15 to 20 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Slice chicken and serve with tangerine sauce.

Toasting spices is fast and easy:

1. Place dry skillet over medium heat.
2. Once pan is hot, pour in desired amount of seeds.
3. Using a spatula, stir seeds in pan until they become fragrant, approximately 1 to 2 minutes.



Ginger-Pistachio Crusted Chicken With Tangerine Sauce

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