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Novi News

MyNovi Sports 1B

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

WWW.NOVINews.COM

VOLUME 52 #18 50 CENTS

Regal retail

■ Mail celebrates 30 years, Nordstrom grand opening

By Chris Jackett

Novi's Mail celebrated its 30th anniversary on Thursday, Sept. 27. The store, which opened in 1977, is located at 45345 N. 10 Mile Rd. in Novi.

Hudson's store opened with 100,000 sq. ft. and was followed by Sears and Roebuck in October 1977. Lord & Taylor opened in March 1978, followed by J.C. Penney's in May 1978.

Dayton-Hudson Properties, The Shadman Company and Homart Development Company built up the property. Dayton-Hudson acquired in 1965 and turned it into one of the largest malls in the state, spanning 1.4 million square feet on 300 acres of land.

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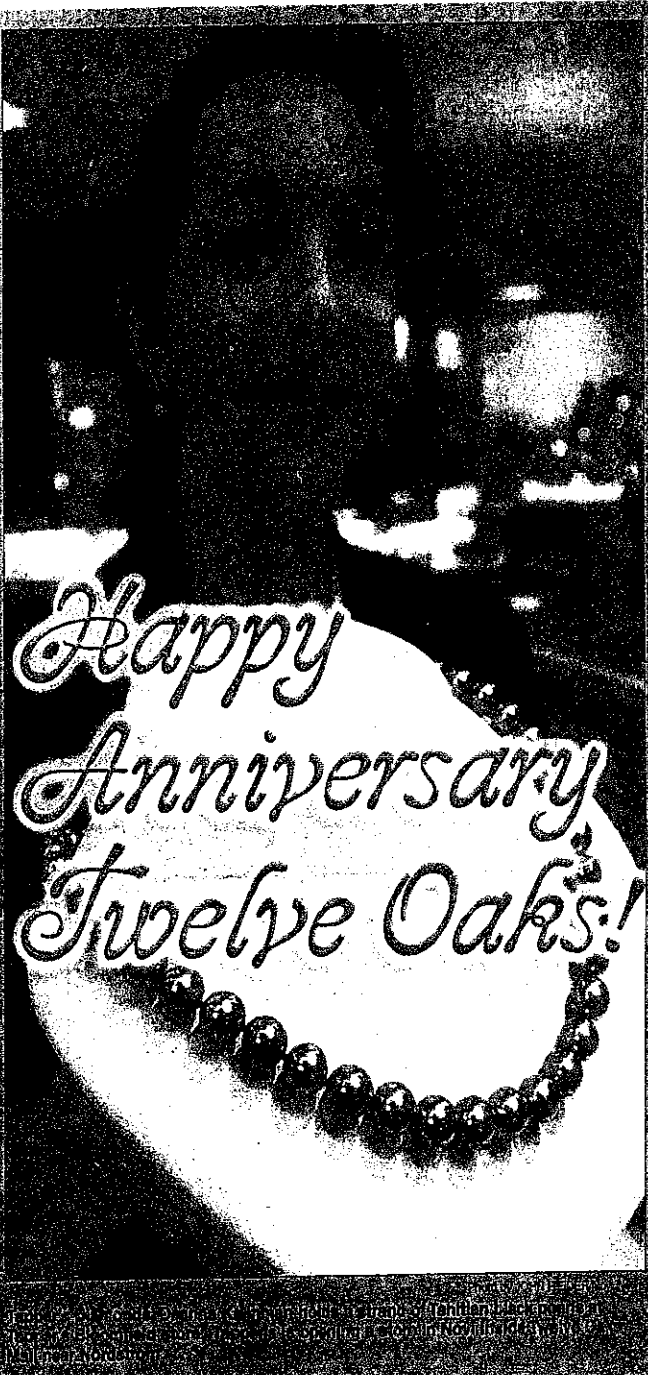
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Waiting game

■ State budget talks leave district wondering about more than \$300k in funding

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Novi Community Schools was hoping for additional funding this year, but could be left holding out empty hands.

Facing a \$1.75 billion deficit, state legislators worked toward eliminating Michigan's budget woes by approving \$950 million in cuts to state programs and local schools.

Senate Republicans used the 21-17 majority vote to pass the cuts last Sunday, a move which now needs to be approved by the Democrat-controlled House and

continued on 2A

Teens face graffiti allegations

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Five teens ages 14-15 were identified last week for vandalizing eight properties with graffiti between Sept. 7-16.

"They were never arrested, they were really identified and interviewed," Police Detective Jerrod Hart said. "There was some investigation with a joint resource officer at the middle school."

According to Novi Police, graffiti was reported on the front windows of Custom Business Solutions, on the signage for Image Tek, on the passenger-side of a Ford Econoline box-truck at Conserva Electric Supply and on a concrete wall at Commercial Carpet. All four businesses, located on Grand River Avenue, were

continued on 2A

NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER



FRIDAY

The Greater Novi Chamber will host the second annual Grapes and Grooves from 6:30-10 p.m. at the Atrium of Novi between MiXX Lounge and Larson Jewelry on Main Street. The event will feature four different wine tasting stations, strolling appetizers from local restaurants and live jazz music performed by the Jim Holden Quartet, a conglomeration of Michigan State University students enrolled in the jazz program. Novi Fine Wine, The Grapevine, Hooters and Fleming's are some of the local businesses providing food and refreshments. A silent auction will also take place, including items from Larson Jewelry, artwork from local artists, Red

Wings tickets and Lions tickets. Tickets for the event are \$40 at the door.

SATURDAY

Stop by Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for the American Sewing Expo. Explore the world of sewing through floor shows, exhibits, seminar, demonstrations and fashion shows. The event also runs 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, with special pre-show workshops from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. today. Visit <http://www.americansewingexpo.com> for more information.

SUNDAY

Celebrate the first day of autumn by seeing a scary movie. If you've already seen the redone "Halloween" film, head over to Emagine Theater, 44425 W. 12 Mile Rd., and check out "Resident Evil: Extinction." The third installment of the zombie films based off a video games find genetically altered Alice (Milla Jovovich) and a handful of other survivors fending off swarms of the undead in the middle of the desert. Call (888) 319-3456 for show times. Run time: 1 hour 35 minutes.

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State budget talks leave district wondering about more than \$300k in funding

continued from front

Gov. Jennifer Granholm. About \$587 million of the tab would come from state programs, which is expected to result in the layoffs of about 2,000 state employees.

The remaining \$365 million would come from public schools, \$290 million of which is being drawn from the previously planned 2.5 percent funding increase.

Public school funding will freeze at the current \$12.8 billion.

Novi schools

Each Novi Community Schools student earned the district \$8,695 last year through the State Foundation Allowance.

Enrollment numbers are drawn from a Student Count Day combination based on the calendar year. Novi reported 6,319 students in February, which makes up 25 percent of the combination, and held the second count day yesterday, making up the remaining 75 percent.

If 6,300 students showed up yesterday, the district could earn nearly \$55 million in state funding.

When setting its 2007-08 budget in June, the district budgeted for an additional \$50 per pupil from the state this year, which would mean

more than \$315,000 in additional funds. With state funding potentially dropping to zero, the district will have to scramble to cover ground.

"It's premature. Everything is a moving target. School districts across the state are really in a tough place. It's difficult not knowing what our revenue is," said Gail Credit, Assistant Superintendent of Novi Community Schools. "With no Oct. 20 state aid payment, we would be able to make it through. But we wouldn't be able to make it through the Nov. 20 date."

"We're working on what other approaches we can take. We would have to look at that as a district and look at taking out of our equity fund or cutting back on supplies."

Earlier in the process

Budget recommendations from Granholm earlier this year called for \$227.28 million more for school aid, a number which will be rendered nil after a projected \$290 million funding cut.

The Governor's budget also recommended \$993.18 million more for higher education, but now the number is looking at a \$36 million cut, plus a \$7.1 million cut to community colleges.

Minority House Leader Craig DeRoché (R-Novi) said last month that the increased higher education and school aid funding goes to the universities, while funding for the

students was cut by \$60 million. "The Republicans proposed more funding for higher education and a total less than Granholm's in overall spending (which had called for a \$120 million increase)," he said. "With higher education, we would do better if we put more money directly to the students."

"If we sent it directly to students and they could decide what school to give the grant to, it'd be a pretty big stick in negotiating where they would go to school."

Pending the approval of the Senate's proposed cuts, another \$650 million would need to be covered, susceptible as a result from a House-approved tax increase.

Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) said more conservative spending would be better than additional taxes, which she estimated about 90 percent of more than 500 constituents she's talked to had voiced concern over.

"The governor seems to be focused in on a tax increase first. A tax increase was embedded in the budget sent to the House and the Senate," Cassis said. "I believe more cost savings than reductions can be made."

"The whole idea behind getting Michigan back on a balanced budget without raising taxes would send a message to Wall Street that Michigan is ready to get back and compete."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Paving pathways

Work continues on sidewalks along Meadowbrook Road near Ten Mile in Novi last week. A winding path of concrete is being placed along the road's west side. Upon completion, the path will run from Eight Mile to 10 Mile roads.

Teens face graffiti allegations

continued from front

vandalized the weekend of Sept. 7. Red, dark purple and lime green removable spray paint was used to write the words "dices" three times, "sus" twice, the initials "AJ" with the "A" circled once and a backwards dollar sign with a large "R" once.

The following week-long span of graffiti included words such as "dices," "sus," "hunny," "adit" and a curse word starting with "F" being painted in a variety of colors.

Locations hit by the second string of vandalism include the Novi Trade Center, water tower and a rotating television billboard on Interstate-96. Novi Middle School's south and east side entrance walls and sign along 11 Mile Road were also victims of vandalism.

Hart said the teens were forthright in confessing their guilt and have been turned over to the Oakland County Prosecutors' Office.

Novi Police are gathering restitution and if the total sum of damage costs, between \$1,000-\$19,999, the teens would face five-year felony charges. If the damages surpass \$20,000, it would be a 10-year felony charge.

Your Dental Health



Presented by David A. Woody, D.D.S.

NON-SHRINKING POSSIBILITIES

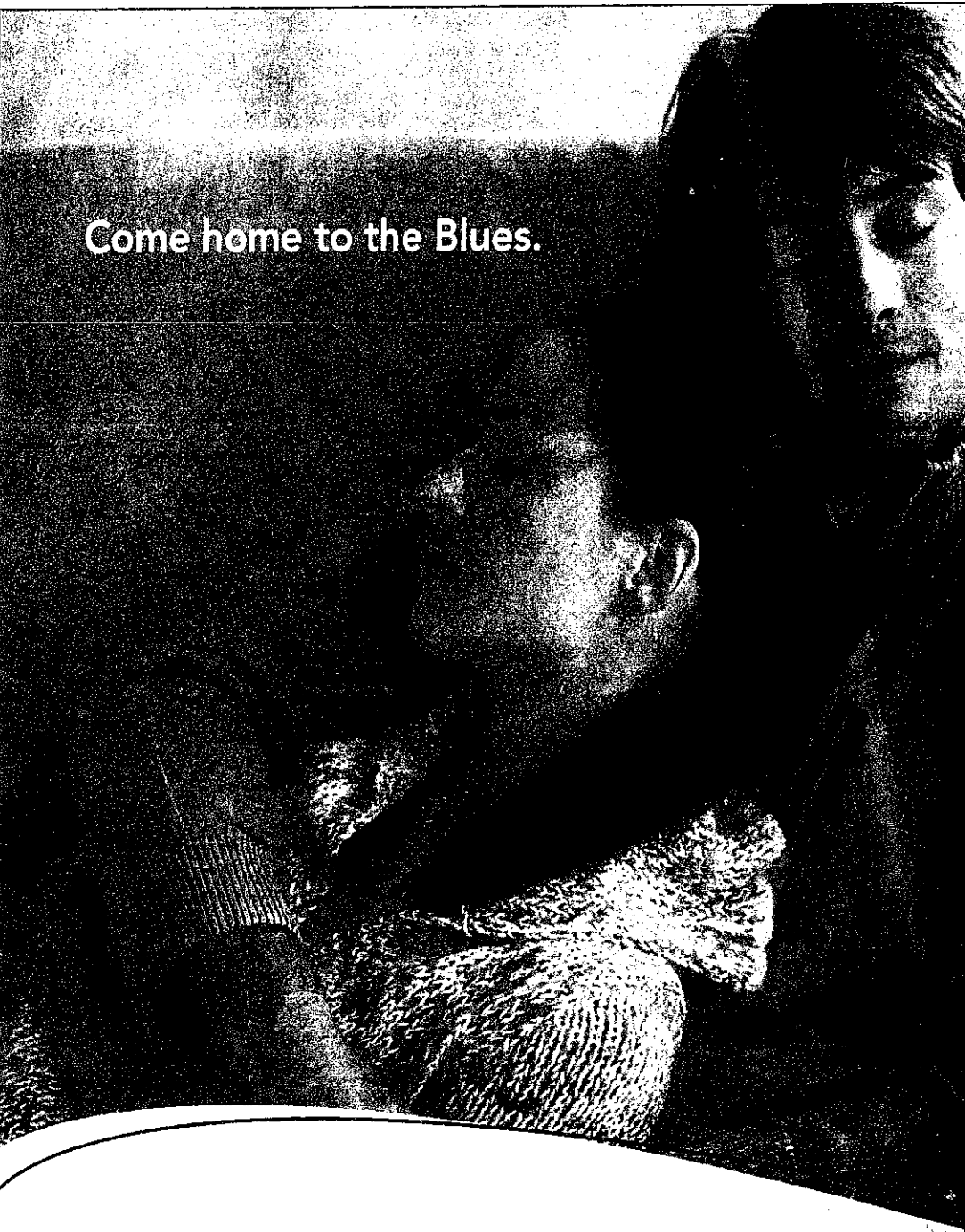
When a tooth is extracted, the ridge of alveolar bone that once held it in place begins to shrink. Inevitably, as a result, an existing denture will increasingly find itself on an unstable foundation. This leads to the denture becoming more and more loose until it eventually has to be replaced. And, for this reason alone, many patients turn to dental implants to replace lost teeth. This prosthetic device so closely approximates the look and function of a natural tooth root that it minimizes bone resorption. Once the titanium anchor is placed in the bone to function much like a natural tooth root, it becomes integrated with the bone, thereby minimizing bone loss. This provides a solid anchor for replacement teeth.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Clothier Martin + Osa is opening a store in the new Nordstrom wing of Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall.

Mall celebrates 30 years, Nordstrom grand opening

continued from front

River. When I first started working here, Novi Road and Grand River was the only stop light and Meadowbrook and Haggerty were dirt roads," Devlin said. "The traffic in the area has greatly increased. I used to get here in seven minutes and I have to give myself at least 15 minutes to drive now."

Devlin, who has participated in the Hudson's Thanksgiving Day Parade a number of times and even won a 1980 Chrysler vehicle from a store contest in December 1979, has many fond memories of the mall over the years.

"My favorite (memories) are working here. I love sales and meeting people every day. The mall is very nice, clean and has always been a nice place," she said. "I've personally met a lot of people. Tommy Hearn (former Detroit Pistons coach), Jack Morris, who was a pitcher for the (Detroit) Tigers, and all the newscasters that come through. Sara Ferguson did a Weight Watchers promotion in the mall right to 10 years ago."

When Gilbert Henderson, Michael Kelly, William Toombs, Robert Jenkins, and Richard Kugha cut the red ribbon 30 years ago, they could not have imagined what the shopping center would be, be a part of, and eventually



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Work continues on the new Nordstrom wing at Twelve Oaks Mall. Nordstrom and many other tenants in the mall will begin to open for business this week.

change into.

Now, celebrating its 30th anniversary with the theme "Twelve Oaks transformed," the mall is unveiling 40 new stores in addition to the long-awaited fifth anchor store, Nordstrom. "There were about 150 stores when it opened. The layout itself for 30 years has been the same," Devlin said. "With the new 30-year expansion, there's going to be a new 30-40 stores. It diversifies (the mall) and will be a cutting card and increase traffic of customers wanting to visit the mall."

Over the past 30 years, the mall has given itself continual revivals to stay as modern as possible.

The day started - March 23, 1997 - we started replacing floors and other cosmetic appearances," said Peggy Hayes, the mall's marketing director. "I don't think anyone would have a clue, walking in

here, that (the mall) is 30 years old."

Some revisions have been cosmetic, while many more have been business related as stores move out and others move in. The first anchor store, Hudson's, spent time as Marshall Field before transforming into the current Macy's. With its third identity in as many decades, Macy's is also looking to revamp its look.

"Macy's will take the rest of 2008 to complete their 60,000-square-foot expansion (and rearrange their layout)," Hayes said. "Lord & Taylor also took the chance to give themselves a face lift."

The mall also stays fresh by introducing new stores to not just Novi, but the entire state.

"A lot of people don't realize when Twelve Oaks gets a store first in the country or in Michigan," Hayes said. "We really draw from a large area. We have a great mix (of stores)."

Hayes said PINK by Victoria's Secret, Ruehl 925 and Department 56 (formerly known as All the Hoopla) were firsts in the country. Stores opening in coming weeks such as Martin + Osa, Moonstruck Chocolate Cafe, Metropark and serie by American Eagle are all firsts in Michigan. The current JELiAs clothing store was also a first in Michigan when it opened.

"The biggest change is the current additions," Hayes said. "We're on the countdown now and we couldn't be more excited."

Novi News staff writer Chris Jaccett can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjaccett@gannett.com.

Novi welcomes Nordstrom

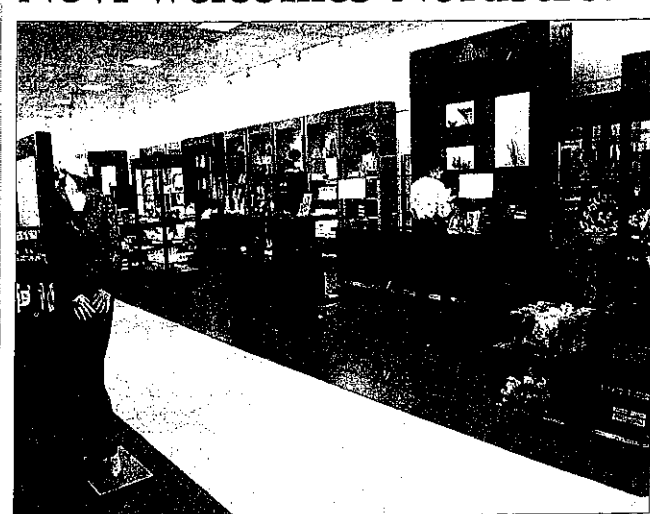


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Nordstrom prepares for its Sept. 28 opening at Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall.

By Kelly Murad

STAFF WRITER

Fashion buffs across the state of Michigan have their calendars marked for Sept. 28.

Twelve Oaks Mall, the retail hub for the City of Novi, welcomes the grand opening of Nordstrom tomorrow at 10 a.m.

"Right now, Twelve Oaks Mall is a destination location," said Ara Topouzian, economic development manager for the City of Novi. "With Nordstrom plus new specialty stores, this is going to be a real focal point for the city."

The event featured two fashion shows including lines such as, Anna Sui, Tory Burch, Marc by Marc Jacobs, Trovata and Versace men's line, which will all be exclusive to the Novi store.

To celebrate opening day, Nordstrom will be hosting a cosmetic tailgate party tomorrow from 8:30-10 a.m.

"Our entire team of beauty experts will be on hand to share the inside scoop on the latest products and trends from the top names in beauty," said Nordstrom Spokesman John Bailey. "We certainly hope for a great opening day and weekend, but can't predict how many people will come out there," Topouzian said.

"Our customer is anyone who loves fashion," Bailey said. "We are going to do our best to bring the best fashion the market has to offer. Our goal is to have something for everyone in terms of price, style and size."

The addition of Nordstrom is providing 350 jobs for residents in Novi and surrounding communities.

"What's going on in Novi these days shows that it's not all bad out there," Topouzian said.

Nordstrom at Twelve Oaks Mall Grand Opening

- Friday, Sept. 28
- Store opens at 10 a.m.
- Cosmetic tailgate party from 8:30-10 a.m. at first floor mall entrance. For more information call (800) 916-6110.

In addition to exclusive clothing and cosmetic collections, Nordstrom houses five shoe departments with shoe fitters and a shoe shine stand, and a restaurant called Cafe Bistro.

Other services offered to Nordstrom clients include an on-site alterations and tailor shop and a complimentary wardrobe and shopping service called Personal Touch.

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Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of Huron Valley Ambulance's 11th annual Camp 9-1-1!

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BE SCENE IN NOVI

Young at Heart

Photos by JOHN HEIDER



Novi High School senior Colin Woods learns how to prepare an injection during a recent visit to Novi's Providence Hospital. Woods and other Novi science students have partnered up with the hospital to learn about the medical profession. Another group of students got to practice making stitches on chicken breasts.



Colton Nelisius, 9, leans against a sculpture near the Novi High School football field and enjoys a sandwich during Friday's Novi Tastefest.



Village Oaks kindergartener Kathleen Stewart puts on her best scarecrow garb last Monday for the school's Fall festival. On Scarecrow Day, kids were encouraged to dress as scarecrows and then celebrate the new season and new friends they've made.



Members of the Novi Middle School marching band joined the high school's marching band during Friday's home football game.

NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEW FACES



NAME: Nicole Colone

SCHOOL TEACHING AT: Novi Middle School
SUBJECT OR GRADE TEACHING: Social worker
HIGH SCHOOL: Ladywood High School
COLLEGE: Wayne State University
WHERE DO YOU RESIDE: Milford
WHY I CAME TO NOVI: Smaller district, close to home, excellent reputation
WHO I ADMIRE: My dad
WHERE DID YOU TEACH PRIOR TO NOVI? Rochester Schools
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN YOUR NEW POSITION: Friendly, nice people that work together in a productive fashion. Also, the opportunity to meet a challenge and make a difference.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE SOCIAL WORK AS YOUR PROFESSION? I chose social work as my profession to be able to help children find ways to help themselves, to feel like I made a difference in someone's life.



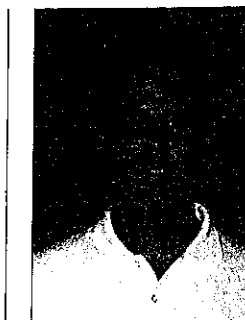
NAME: Karyn Goven

SCHOOL TEACHING AT: Adult Education
SUBJECT OR GRADE TEACHING: Coordinator of the program
HIGH SCHOOL: Troy High School
COLLEGE: MSU - Go Green and Eastern Michigan University
WHERE DO YOU RESIDE: Ypsilanti
WHY I CAME TO NOVI: To gain experience in alternative education and to work with Bob Steh. My husband also works in the same school district and I needed to learn about other districts so we would have great conversations.
WHO I ADMIRE: My mother, she came from Japan and had to learn English and raise a family.
WHERE DID YOU TEACH PRIOR TO NOVI? Willow Run Community Schools. I supervised the early childhood department, adult education, community education, after-school programs and summer camp.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN YOUR NEW POSITION: Gain new ideas and learn about alternative education programs.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TEACHING AS YOUR PROFESSION? I chose to be in an education field because I love children. My mother taught me the importance of education and like most people I have had great teachers and not so great, so I wanted to make a difference.



NAME: Gina Zielinski

SCHOOL TEACHING AT: Novi Meadows
SUBJECT OR GRADE TEACHING: Fifth grade speech and language
HIGH SCHOOL: Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central Schools, Verona, NY
COLLEGE: Plattsburgh State University, Plattsburgh, NY
WHERE DO YOU RESIDE: Milford
WHY I CAME TO NOVI: I am looking forward to new challenges and a chance to share my knowledge of autism with the staff, educators, professionals, families and students at Novi Community Schools.
WHO I ADMIRE: My mother. She is everything I hope to be.
WHERE DID YOU TEACH PRIOR TO NOVI? The Abilities Center, Wall Lake; Kennedy Krieger Institute Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Baltimore, Md.; and Southeastern Cooperative Educational Services, Norfolk, Va.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN YOUR NEW POSITION: I am excited to learn and grow both professionally and in my personal goals. I am looking forward to new challenges and to becoming a new family member at Novi Meadows.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TEACHING AS YOUR PROFESSION? My best friend Michelle introduced me to the world of speech-language pathology. I can't imagine having another profession. Helping to educate children with special needs is my passion. It brings me joy to know that I can make a difference in the life of a child.



NAME: George Jonathan Thomann

SCHOOL TEACHING AT: Novi High School
SUBJECT OR GRADE TEACHING: Music teacher
HIGH SCHOOL: Lakeland High School (in White Lake)
COLLEGE: Eastern Michigan University
WHERE DO YOU RESIDE: Ypsilanti
WHY I CAME TO NOVI: I have worked with the marching band for five years, student taught at Novi and I love the students and staff.
WHO I ADMIRE: My parents, teachers and the students I have had and continue to have relationships with.
WHERE DID YOU TEACH PRIOR TO NOVI? Student taught at Novi
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN YOUR NEW POSITION: I am looking forward to have the opportunity to work with students on a daily basis and to improve myself not only as a teacher, but a human being. As well as helping to create and sustain an environment that students feel safe and successful so that learning is possible.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TEACHING AS YOUR PROFESSION? My choice to become a teacher was really not a choice but something I have to do. I have many people in my life who have believed in me and have offered knowledge that inspired me to devote my life to giving back to others.



NAME: Michelle Hurley

SCHOOL TEACHING AT: Village Oaks Elementary
SUBJECT OR GRADE TEACHING: Elementary Music K-4
HIGH SCHOOL: Shrine Catholic High School
COLLEGE: Central Michigan University
WHERE DO YOU RESIDE: Royal Oak
WHY I CAME TO NOVI: To be able to live where I grew up near my family, and teach in Oakland County, which is a dream.
WHO I ADMIRE: My 17-year-old sister Mandy who inspired more than 1,500 people in her short life. She battled a severe childhood cancer for three-and-a-half years and ended that battle July of this summer. Her strength, perseverance, spirit and amazing positive outlook on life will remain with me my whole life.
WHERE DID YOU TEACH PRIOR TO NOVI? Flushing School District, Hamtramck Charter
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN YOUR NEW POSITION: A permanent job! Cohesiveness with staff, enjoyment with students and the opportunity to learn something new each day from all those around me.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TEACHING AS YOUR PROFESSION? I find so much enjoyment in children's faces when they are given the opportunity to create, learn and grasp new concepts. I love learning as much from students as they learn from me on a day-to-day basis.



NAME: Cyndi Geiger

SCHOOL TEACHING AT: High School preschool
SUBJECT OR GRADE TEACHING: Preschool half day, 4 year olds
HIGH SCHOOL: Delton Kellogg College
COLLEGE: GUSU
WHERE DO YOU RESIDE: Saranac
WHY I CAME TO NOVI: To locate closer to my husband - he took a principal position at Dundee last year.
WHO I ADMIRE: My mother, husband, daughter, son and Christ (many people who live through adversity and shine)
WHERE DID YOU TEACH PRIOR TO NOVI? School social worker Lowell Schools - Ionia Isd
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN YOUR NEW POSITION: The opportunity to make a difference
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TEACHING AS YOUR PROFESSION? My life has been blessed with great experiences. I believe that I have been called to help improve the lives of youth - where else can you reach so many kids!



NAME: Christine Harris

SCHOOL TEACHING AT: Preschool
SUBJECT OR GRADE TEACHING: Preschool half day, 4 year olds
HIGH SCHOOL: Redford Union High School
COLLEGE: Eastern Michigan University, bachelor's; University of Michigan (master's degree)
WHERE DO YOU RESIDE: Novi
WHY I CAME TO NOVI: Great neighborhoods and schools; proximity to expressways to other great Michigan areas.
WHO I ADMIRE: My mother
WHERE DID YOU TEACH PRIOR TO NOVI? Novi only!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN YOUR NEW POSITION: Exciting new ways to enrich young minds; shared professional experiences with other teachers and administration.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TEACHING AS YOUR PROFESSION? Every day is a great new experience waiting to happen. I would like to channel an enthusiasm to gain the most out of everyday moments to all of my students, teaching them to discover all that their world has to offer.



NAME: Angela Botsch

SCHOOL TEACHING AT: Community Ed Preschool
SUBJECT OR GRADE TEACHING: 3s
HIGH SCHOOL: Livonia Stevenson
COLLEGE: Eastern Michigan University
WHERE DO YOU RESIDE: Livonia
WHY I CAME TO NOVI: Position available that I was looking for
WHO I ADMIRE: My mom - she's the strongest person I know
WHERE DID YOU TEACH PRIOR TO NOVI? Redford Union - Substitute Learning Tree - North, Livonia Little Tots
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN YOUR NEW POSITION: Creating relationships with my children and teaching them all sorts of wonderful things.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TEACHING AS YOUR PROFESSION? I've always loved working with children and it's the only job I've ever wanted.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: 7 p.m. Oct. 4 inside the Educational Services Building on Taft Road

Victoria Mitchell
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vmitchell@gannett.com

MY EDUCATION



Thursday, September 27, 2007
www.nov1news.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Class NOTES

Novi High School Marching Band

The Novi Wildcat Band now has a Web site providing information for upcoming events. Everything from dates, maps, event schedules, etc., is available. Access to this information may be found by visiting <http://www.nov1.k12.mi.us/HSB> and/HSBAnd.aspx.

Free and reduced lunch program

Oakland County schools have released the policy for free and reduced-price meals for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program.

The chart breaking down the criteria for the 2007-08 school year is now on the Oakland Schools Web site at www.oakland.k12.mi.us.

Application forms are being sent to the homes of students and will also be available in the school office. Families may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year.

For more information, please contact Mary Clay, child nutrition consultant, Oakland Schools at (248) 209-2102.

Novi Athletic Booster's All Sports Pass

Now is the time to purchase an athletic booster all-sports pass for entry into all home athletic events throughout the 2007-08 school year. Tournaments, invitational and playoff games are excluded. The family pass includes all family members living in the same household for \$140. Individual passes are \$40. Please bring photo identification for more information contact Michele

Rydziwski at myrdziwski1@yahoo.com or moira.robinson@hotmail.com.

Borders Educator Week

Borders Express at Twelve Oaks Mall will be celebrating "Educator Savings Week" now through Oct. 2. All educators (including retired, home-school, dance teacher, any type of educator) will receive 25 percent off purchases (excluding periodicals and gift cards) for the duration of the sale.

Taste of the Lakes

The Walled Lake Consolidated Schools Lakes Area Youth Assistance announces "Taste of the Lakes" at Edgewood Country Club, 8399 Commerce Road, Commerce, 5-8 p.m. tonight. The event will feature cuisine samples from the area's finest restaurants: Applebee's, Baker's Loft, Beaumont Hospitals, Big Boy, Beyer's Country Store, Casey's of Walled Lake, Chef David's Pastries, Cold Stone Creamery, Commerce Grill, Culligan Water of Waterford, Dream Dinners, Edgewood Country Club, Edible Arrangements, Great Harvest Bread Co., Johnny Carino's, Kodak Creek Inn, Maples of Novi, Michigan Star Clipper, Mother's Pizzeria, Nina's Italian Bakery, Penny Lake Catering, Red Robin, Tim Horton's, Truffles, Union Street Coney and Pastaria, Volare Restaurant, raffle, auction and cash bar. Tickets are \$20 per person and be obtained by calling the Youth Assistance office (248) 956-5070 or Helen Jones (248) 956-2011; go to the Commerce Township office, City of Wixom Parks and Recreation or pay at the door.

Further TOY challenge information is available at www.TOYchallenge.com. All submissions will be judged on originality, creativity, engineering, feasibility, design process, description, team participation and clarity of communication.

Last year's grand prizes included a trip to Space Camp. Category prize-winning teams were also chosen with each member receiving a certificate, medal and a VEX robot. Each team also took home a trophy. Category Honorable Mention teams received Thames & Kosmos science kits. There were also other special awards including for originality, presentation and team spirit.

To learn more, visit www.SallyRideScience.com or call (800) 561-5161.

Sally Ride Science invites imaginative kids to enter competition

Boys are a great way to learn about science, engineering and the design process. Sally Ride Science® is giving girls and boys in grades five through eight the chance to step out of their classrooms and experience engi-

neering hands on by creating their dream toy or game for the sixth annual TOY challenge™.

The mission of this fun-fueled toy design competition is to motivate kids, especially girls, to get involved in engineering, see that engineering is in everything, and experience engineering as fun, creative, collaborative and relevant to everyday life.

The competition is open to fifth through eighth graders in the United States, its territories, or possessions, and Canada during the fall 2007/spring 2008 school year. Team size can range from three to six members, half of which must be girls. To get a team started: Find an adult coach (18 years of age or older) and sign up by Dec. 12 (fee is \$45 per team); then choose from themed-toy categories including "Games for the Family," "Get out and Play," "Toys That Teach" and start brainstorming.

Further TOY challenge information is available at www.TOYchallenge.com. All submissions will be judged on originality, creativity, engineering, feasibility, design process, description, team participation and clarity of communication.

Last year's grand prizes included a trip to Space Camp. Category prize-winning teams were also chosen with each member receiving a certificate, medal and a VEX robot. Each team also took home a trophy. Category Honorable Mention teams received Thames & Kosmos science kits. There were also other special awards including for originality, presentation and team spirit.

To learn more, visit www.SallyRideScience.com or call (800) 561-5161.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Welcome!

Novi High Principal John Lawrence talks to a breakfast meeting of new students Sept. 13. Lawrence and Superintendent Peter Dion welcomed about 75 new students to the population of 1,940 at their Taft and 10 Mile campus. Both stressed how important it was to not only concentrate on academic studies but to get involved in the school's extracurricular activities.

Profile of a Paw Print Inn Guest

NAME: Scooter
FAVORITE TOY: Furry squeaky ball
FAVORITE PASTIME: Begging for treats
FAVORITE VACATION: The Paw Print Inn

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OBITUARY POLICY

The last seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$15 a line. Obituaries are published by 6 a.m.

*Obituary for obituaries is Tuesday at 6:00 a.m. for publication in Tuesday's newspaper.

For more information, call 888-999-1288, or contact your funeral home. *Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via **Story Chat** at nov1news.com

Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
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MY PICS

Thursday, September 27, 2007
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Members of the Novi girl's swim and dive team celebrate a recent victory. The team took first place at the West Bloomfield Invitational.



Gov. Jennifer Granholm met with the U15 Michigan Wolves soccer team this month to acknowledge their 2007 U.S. Soccer National Championship title. Pictured are: Front Row (left to right - kneeling): Cody Henderson (West Bloomfield), Ryan Koerner (Grand Blanc), Governor Granholm, Joe D'Agostino (Livonia) and Nick Scialabassi (Northville). Back Row (standing): Coach Lars Richters (Livonia), Hassan "Boony" Saad (Dearborn), Nick Tacconelli (Northville), Rick McCarthy (Novi), Ryan Barrett (Grand Rapids), Doug Beason (Northville), Vinh Nguyen (Canton), Joshua Gatt (Plymouth) and Jad El-Zeln (Dearborn). Other Team Members not present include: Josh Barons (Farmington Hills), Kevin Cope (Canton), Eterne Lussier (Livonia), Sass Miskovic (Canton), Jordan Tyler (Rochester), Adam Grinwis (Ada) and Asst. Coach Joe Zawacki.



Jeremy Church is congratulated by Novi Mayor David Landry upon receiving his Eagle Scout award at a court of honor in July.



Novi Woods third grade students Alexis Malecki (left), Alexa Hatz, Madison Ampunan, Katie McMaster and Jessica Lypla stop for a photo during a recent outing where the girls cheered for the Novi High School football team during the first first quarter.

- Back pain?
- Headaches?
- Numbness in hands or feet?

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MY PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, September 27, 2007
www.novnews.com
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Stolen wallet leads to credit card fraud

A woman who was shopping at Macy's Sept. 7 had her wallet stolen and became a victim of credit card fraud, reports said.

According to a recent police report, the woman was at Macy's between noon and 12:30 p.m. and unaware her wallet containing a credit card and Chase Visa credit card was stolen until the Fraud Department of Chase called her.

According to the report, her credit card had been used several times in Novi and when the suspects tried to use the card to pay for gas in Detroit, Chase canceled the card.

The discover card was also used in Novi, but exact locations are unknown at this time, reports said.

The woman has canceled both credit cards.

Man arrested accuses officer of racism

Police arrested a man for operating while intoxicated and possession of marijuana just after 1 a.m. Sept. 7, reports said.

The man, driving a silver Ford Focus with three passengers in the car, was clocked going 59 mph in a 40 mph zone, reports said.

The officer initiated the traffic stop on Haggerty Road, north of 13 Mile Road and noticed an odor of marijuana and slurred speech while talking with the driver, reports said.

According to reports, the driver said he thought the speed limit was 35 or 45 mph and admitted

POLICE BRIEFS

to splitting two pitchers of beer with friends.

The officer stated that the driver was swaying back and forth while participating in a series of field sobriety tests and his blood alcohol concentration was .20 percent.

While being transported to the Novi Police Department the man continually told the officer he was being racist and arresting him because he was Native American, reports said.

According to the report, another officer assisted in searching the man before placing him in a cell and a bag of a green

leafy substance was found in his right shoe.

A possession of marijuana charge was added to the charge for operating while intoxicated, reports said.

According to the report, the three passengers lived near by and were released from the scene on foot.

Quick attack

According to a recent police report, a man arrived home at about 9:30 p.m. Sept. 12 and by 10 p.m., his vehicle had been keyed and egged.

The blue Pontiac Grand Prix was parked at a residence on Chase Drive between Eight and Nine Mile roads when the suspect(s) keyed four sides of his vehicle and threw eggs at it, reports said.

According to the victim, he has no suspect(s) in mind, but plans to prosecute if one is identified.

Turn your lights on

A man was arrested for operating while intoxicated just before 2 a.m. Sept. 11, reports said.

The man was driving a Dodge pickup with no headlights while heading north on Market Street to Grand River Avenue, reports said.

According to the report, the officer observed the vehicle

quickly cut into the center lane from the right lane, and then quickly cut into the turn lane and turn left onto Grand River still without headlights on.

The officer initiated a traffic stop on Grand River, just east of Novi Road, reports said.

According to the report, the officer smelled an odor of intoxicants, the driver's eyes were bloodshot and he was slurring his speech.

The officer observed that the driver lacked finger dexterity and had a difficult time removing his license and registration from his wallet, reports said.

According to the report, the driver underwent a series of field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered his blood alcohol concentration to be .17 percent.

Police lieutenant honored

The Michigan Council of Private Investigators (MCPI) selected Novi Police Lt. Victor Lauria as the recipient of the Investigative Excellence Award.

The MCPI annually recognizes a Michigan investigator who, through their personal and professional efforts, has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, ethical practice and integrity in their chosen career of law enforcement.

Lauria is the fourth recipient of the Investigative Excellence Award.

Sept. 18 at the MCPI annual conference at the Novi Wyndham Garden Hotel.

"This award is not a reflection on myself personally, but is the result of a dedicated team effort among the many members of the Novi Police Department," Lauria said.

He was nominated for the honor by City of Novi resident and business owner Wayne Bullen.

Bullen, a local private investigator, partnered with Lauria on the successful apprehension and conviction of Kevin Mykolaitis for the 2003 murder of Cameron Sanders.

"Throughout his career, Lt. Lauria has distinguished himself as a leader in countless fashions. His professionalism and exemplary conduct are the result of countless acts of dedicated service that simply go

above and beyond what is normally required of an employee," said Novi Police Chief David Molloy. "I am very proud to have Lt. Lauria as a member of our investigative and management team and am honored to call him a colleague."

A graduate of Northern Michigan University, Lt. Lauria began his career with the Novi Police Department in January, 1988.

He was recognized as the Novi Police Officer of the Year in 1991 and was promoted to the rank of detective in 1995 to the rank of sergeant in 2005, and to his current rank of lieutenant in 2006.

He is currently pursuing his Master's Degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University.

— Submitted to the Novi News



Jeffrey H. Miller, M.D.

Dr. Miller has over 12 years experience in treating venous diseases and has received many honors and awards including being named one of "Detroit's Top Docs" by Hour Magazine.

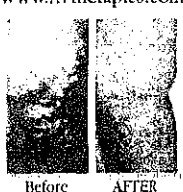
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MY COMMUNITY

Thursday, September 27, 2007
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Village Oaks daring duckling dilemma

By Holly Bowne
SPECIAL WRITER

Some may say what she did was foolish. Still others may call her a hero.

But regardless of which stance you take, one baby duckling is alive today because of the actions taken by Rebecca Wicker.

After visiting with friends one Friday afternoon in late April, the 16-year-old student decided to take her customary shortcut home, walking through the Village Oaks common area association playground.

As Wicker approached, she noticed three teenage boys, whom she didn't recognize from the area, acting strangely.

Walking closer, she saw that a grown duck lay dead on the grass. She knew there was a duck nest full of eggs nearby, because she'd seen it before.

Anger bubbled up inside. "I started yelling at them to get out of there now or I was calling the cops," Wicker said.

After smashing an egg, and trying unsuccessfully to scare Wicker off, the boys jumped into

their car and drove off. Wicker rushed over to the nest and gathered up the remaining five eggs, placing them into the pockets of her jacket for protection.

At home, she and her mother, Shirley, lined a shoe box with a soft towel, and carefully placed the eggs inside. They covered them with a tight cloth and placed them under a warm desk lamp.

Shirley Wicker sent an e-mail to friends and teachers asking for an incubator, or at least some advice on how to care for the eggs, in order to help her daughter save at least one duckling.

She received an immediate response from Carol Lafferty, a first-grade teacher from Wicker's former elementary school, Village Oaks.

Lafferty has done an egg-hatching project with her students every spring since she began teaching 11 years ago.

In the past, Lafferty had gotten eggs for the project from Kensington Park, or supply catalogs.

But ironically, a couple of weeks before receiving Shirley Wicker's e-mail, Teagan, the Village Oaks School therapy dog, had discovered five duck eggs in the school's courtyard.

Lafferty was already caring for those eggs when she learned of Wicker's eggs.

Wicker's five eggs were placed in Lafferty's classroom incubator along with the five eggs found by Teagan.

"I was glad to get some more eggs for freshness and discovered that all five were still developing and alive. I estimated they were about eight days into their 28-day incubation period."

Candling is a process used to examine eggs for freshness and fertility by holding them up to a bright light.

Wicker and Lafferty watched and waited patiently. Then on May 14, Wicker's five rescued eggs hatched.

At first they all seemed fine. Unfortunately, four of the five ducklings only lived a few days. But the fifth duckling did survive, so they named her Lucky Duck.

Teagan's five eggs hatched one week later, on May 21, and with a full week of lifetime experience under her wings, Lucky Duck became a surrogate mother to the newer ducklings.

"At first, after her siblings died, Lucky was very hyper, jumping around a lot and seemed lonely," Wicker said. "Mrs. Lafferty was hesitant to put Teagan's ducklings into the same cage with her."

But when she did, Lucky settled right down, and the little ones came muzzling over to keep warm.

Lafferty took all six ducklings home over the summer and released them into a pond near her home.

For a while, every time they heard her voice, they would swim to shore and she would feed them duck food by hand.

Lafferty knew it was important for the ducklings to be with other ducks so they would learn to fly.

And soon enough, she noticed they were adopted by some other ducks in the pond.

Now, as cooler temperatures begin to creep in, thanks to the efforts of one girl, there will be one more Lucky Duck flying.



Rebecca Wicker holds a small duckling she saved from the Village Oaks common area association playground.

Novi Boy Scouts have a very active summer



Boy Scouts from Novi's Troop 407 practice their archery skills at Camp Rotary near Clare.

While school was out, Boy Scouts of Novi's Troop 407 had an active summer.

In June, senior patrol leader Benjamin Maynard and assistant senior patrol leader Ross Buckley attended National Youth Leadership Training at D-Bar-A Scout Ranch near Mesasoma.

The week-long session develops leadership skills in a troop's top youth members, and teaches them how to inspire leadership in other scouts.

The troop attended its annual summer camp in July at Camp Rotary near Clare.

Nineteen scouts spent the week earning a total of 54 merit badges, and 10 advanced in rank as a result

of activities they took part in. The scouts will be recognized for their achievements at the troop's Fall Court of Honor later this month.

The troop received the camp's Gold Award for troop excellence, and completed a service project to install golfposts and rope hand-holds along one of the camp's most-used walkways.

Three troop members, scouts Benjamin Maynard and Garrett Murphy and scoutmaster Joe Thimm, were inducted into the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's national honor society.

July was also busy with Eagle Scout activity. Troop 407's newest Eagle Scout, Jeremy Church, was awarded the

rank of Eagle at a special Court of Honor conducted at Faith Community Presbyterian Church.

For his service project, Jeremy planned and supervised refinishing and repair of the corridors inside the Faith Community preschool wing.

A 2007 graduate of Novi High School, Jeremy was a scout since first grade, and joins his brother Daniel in the rank of Eagle.

Two other scouts completed their Eagle service project requirements. With the help of fellow scouts, family and friends, Ross Buckley and Christopher Miller oversaw significant landscaping and grounds improvements at Church of the Holy Family.

Work included "clearing" overgrowth and construction of a natural area, repair of signage and benches and replacing turfgrass.

To cap off the summer, seven youth and adults traveled to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M. in August, and completed an eight-day hike through the rugged mountainous terrain.

Hikers camped each night along the trail and had to carry all their equipment, food and water in their backpacks, but enjoyed some of America's most breathtaking scenery in an experience available only to Boy Scouts.

The hikers trained and planned for a year-and-a-half in preparation for the adventure.

Boy Scouts is for males 11-17 and offers outdoor adventure, personal growth and leadership development.

Chartered to Church of the Holy Family, Troop 407 meets every Tuesday evening and any boy interested in finding out more about the troop and Boy Scouts is invited to visit.

Contact Scoutmaster Joe Thimm at (248) 348-7330 or visit the troop Web site at www.novitroop407.org for more information.

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CITY OF NOVI

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS

AND COMMISSIONS

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

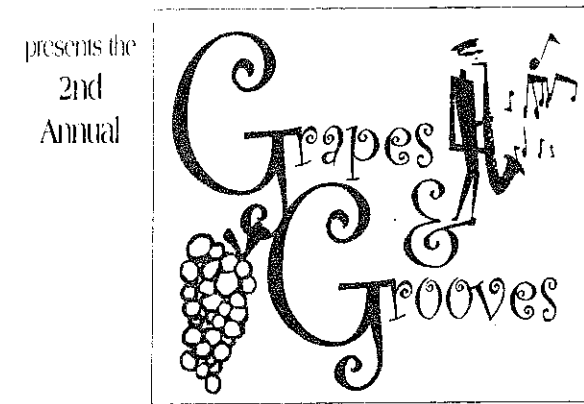
If you are a registered voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City Board or Commission, applications and booklets containing information about the various Boards and Commissions are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. You may contact the City Clerk's office by calling (248) 347-0456 to receive an application by mail or fax or log onto the City Web Site at www.cityofnovi.org to print out an application.

The deadline for filing an application is Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. All applicants will be required to be present at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2007 in the Council Chambers to be interviewed by City Council. All City Council meetings are televised.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK

(9-27 & 10-4-07 NN 377797)

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Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vmitchell@gannett.com

MY OPINION

Thursday, September 27, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell
EDITOR
Richard Penberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

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

City Logo; Fireup

At Monday's meeting, City Council unanimously agreed upon and approved a design closely resembling the current logo for the City of Novi.

"One of the things Council settled on was that it keeps our history, yet projects a crisp image," said Community Relations Manager Sheryl Walsh. "It puts a positive, clean new spin on it." The chosen logo was a design created in response to the feedback received from members of the community, City staff and City Council who attended the graphic work session Sept. 10.

The only thing still to be determined regarding the logo are the colors.

In an effort to create a consistent image for Novi, Ford and Earl Associates Inc. was hired last spring to develop a new city logo, vision statement and brand statement as part of the city-wide branding initiative.

Although a new logo is the first step, Ford and Earl have developed a proposed vision statement and brand statements to be further discussed in the future.

According to Walsh, this process is part of the \$20,000 City budgeted to be used toward design and development of City of Novi Style Guides and templates.

Check online and in next week's edition of the Novi News for the details as they unfold.

We two are very interested in learning the \$20,000 new vision.

FireUp Fest

Congratulations goes out to The Jam Society, who won the City of Novi Fireup Battle of the Bands. With nearly 500 people in attendance last Friday, we consider the event a success.

LETTERS

Friends of Novi Library Support Bond

The Friends of the Novi Public Library take great pride in over 45 years of working with the Novi staff and Board of Trustees to ensure the high-quality library services available in Novi. Our Friends organized in 1960 and established a volunteer library in a building on Novi Road, south of Grand River. The present building was completed in 1976 and each year the Friends have provided support for programs that are not fully funded by the library budget, such as the summer reading program, adult evening programs and special events.

The library use of our library is increasing along with our population. While our population has increased from under 10,000 in the 1970 census, to 54,000 in 2007, our library building has remained the same size. The increasing usage and materials our Novi library provides requires a much larger building. We need improved library facilities, better collections, improved services and more space for books and programs. We need a library that can provide new information technology for all our residents from the young children to our seniors. The improvements that will be made possible by passage of the millage are critically needed.

In 2005, the Friends of the Novi Public Library resoundingly voted to donate \$38,000 to the Walker Fund to build a new building. Now we endorse a proposal that the City Council unanimously agreed to place on the ballot Nov. 6, 2007. The amount of the bond would not exceed \$16,000,000 which covers construction, furnishing and equipping the new library. We urge all Novi residents to learn how this proposal will improve your library and to join the Friends in voting on this millage proposal on Nov. 6.

Vicky McLean, President
Friends of the Novi Public Library

Tax Dollars Lost in Translation

I have never been involved in

political matters, but I had to comment on this one. What has our wonderful City of Novi become when we are spending our tax dollars to translate school handbooks into Japanese? Correct me if I am wrong, but do we not live in the United States of America? If you live here, shouldn't you learn English? We are referred to as a "Melting Pot" and I think the pot has now overflowed! I understand people are brought here from major corporations only for a short time, but should we be spending our tax dollars to accommodate them? I guess I need to start attending meetings when decisions are being made regarding my taxes dollars!

Debbie Jodoin
Novi

Tastefest Committee/RHS Booster Club Thanks Community

Wow, what a great turnout for the First Novi Wildcat Tastefest. The Novi Athletic Boosters and the Tastefest Committee would like to thank all the parents, students, community members, school board members, district staff, Lakeland parents, students and fans, that came out on Friday to support this event. A big thank you to the participating restaurants: bd's Mongolian barbecue, Buffalo Wild Wings, Santino's "Explosion," JET's Pizza, Famous Dave's, Panera Bread, Subway and Cold Stone Creamery of Novi. Also thanks to Citizen's Bank for providing water at "no charge" and to Christina of Christina's Faces face painting for all the beautiful artwork we saw on everyone's faces. Thank you to the custodial and maintenance staff from the high school for their help in setting up and tearing down. Thank you to all the Tastefest committee members who volunteered their time to help bring this event together. Last but not least to Mother Nature for providing the great weather. This event was such a huge success it will be back next year!

Lynda Favorite and Kara Mandaville
Novi Wildcat Tastefest Co-chairs



Great Grillin'
Brian Belanger grills up some food for Novi's B.D.'s Mongolian restaurant at last Friday night's Novi Tastefest at Novi High. The Tastefest, featuring Novi restaurants and food and was to benefit the school's athletic team boosters.

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: vmitchell@gannett.com
Deadline: Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

TOM WATKINS: Creating Value: For Yourself, Our Region and Our State

There is one near you and it can help jump start your career, give you a boost up the economic ladder and reduce the cost of getting a four-year college degree. What is it? Why, your local community college.

Michigan has 28 community colleges providing the best educational and economic investment we can make as a state and you can make in yourself.

Typically, community colleges do not have rich and powerful alumni associations or profitable sports teams; nor are they producing great scientific discoveries. They are not flashy or making the news in day and night. In fact, if they were considered a vehicle, they would be more like a work truck than a sports car.

Our community colleges have carried a heavy load — and will continue to do so — as Michigan transforms itself from a state where one used to be able to lift for a living to where everyone will need to think for a living. Knowledge and talent are the 21st century mother lode.

It has been reported that 85 percent of the high-paying jobs of the future will require education beyond high school yet less than a four-year college degree.

Economic and education payoff

Kevin Carey, a research and policy manager at Education Sector, an independent, nonpartisan think tank based in Washington, D.C. that is

devoted to developing innovative solutions to the nation's most pressing educational problems, had this to say in Washington Monthly magazine about the value of our nation's community colleges:

Community colleges now represent a huge slice of the higher education pie: 43 percent of college freshmen begin their education at two-year institutions.

Community colleges have taken on the toughest job in higher education, teaching lower-income students. Fifty-four percent of community college students receive a Pell Grant (the main federal need-based financial aid program).

Community colleges will be a linchpin to jump-start our economy. Today's students/workers need to be able to learn continuously, think critically and adapt to a changing economy.

Community colleges are also viewed by many as the best value in higher education today. My degrees from Michigan State and Wayne State are built on the solid education I received at Henry Ford Community College. It has been estimated that students can save close to half the cost of a baccalaureate degree by starting at a community college and transferring to a four-year college. With low costs, small classes and easy-to-transfer credits, a community college can be the solution for which financially strapped students and families are looking.

Many students attending



About Tom Watkins

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-2005. Read his international recognized report: The New Education (Re)volution at www.neol.org. He can be reached at tdwatkins@aol.com.

community colleges are working to pay for their schooling while finding value in their education. Community college students consistently rate their educational experience as "excellent" or "good" on student satisfaction surveys.

Recently, the Presidents of the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State released a study that quantified the economic impact of the Governor and Legislature investing in these flagship research institutions. No doubt they are academic and economic engines for the state of Michigan and become talent magnets attracting the brightest minds from across the state and around the globe.

Nationally, similar studies have been done about the economic impact of community colleges. They have found the investments by the state in the community college system produces significant return on their investment by increased earnings and, hence, tax contributions back to the state. Not only are our community colleges stimulating the brain, they are stimulating local economies.

Community colleges are

JOIN IN: Discuss our stories online via **Story Chat** at novinews.com

Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
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COMMENTARY

Thursday, September 27, 2007
www.novinews.com
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PHIL POWER: Solve Michigan's budget with major reforms



About Phil Power

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a resident 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@chcmnet.com.

After another week of watching the same endless shenanigans going on in Lansing, I can only repeat the start of my column last week: "Michigan's political, policy and finance systems are broken. Ten million Michigan citizens have been held hostage to the partisan agendas of both political parties and their members who now hold office, not to mention the interest groups that fund their campaigns."

Sigh. We are in trouble. We're facing the greatest crisis since the Great Depression, and desperately need leaders with a vision for Michigan that will get us through our present turmoil and lay the foundation for a radical transformation of our state.

We're not going to get that by habitual partisan finger pointing or by absurd, face-saving compromises that claim to "solve" the \$1.8 billion state budget deficit. Without a new vision, no matter what they do, a similar deficit will be staring us in the face next year.

Even if we buy into that vision, it won't become reality unless we have state government that is effective, efficient and accountable.

Republican lawmakers say the way to do that is by cutting something like \$1 billion from state spending. But when you ask exactly what they'd cut, mostly what you get back is mumbled about "government waste, inefficiency and bloat."

That's not a responsible recipe for crafting a budget. Especially when they've known the dimensions of the problem we're facing for a year.

But if they are serious about cutting spending, here are two big, obvious, long-overdue ways to cut nearly \$800 million, 'as suggested in The Center for Michigan's most recent newsletter:

First, enact \$500 million worth of "reform." Reform: Michigan's incarceration rate is 40 percent higher than our neighboring states, while our crime rate is just about the same. One third of our enormous state prison population is there for drug-related or

non-violent crimes. Nearly another third are being held beyond their earliest possible release date. And our prisons cost Michigan taxpayers around \$5,000 more per inmate each year more than neighboring states pay to keep theirs locked up.

Ending expensive jail time for non-violent offenders and releasing inmates unlikely to be dangerous to society will save hundreds of millions. Gradually bringing pay for Michigan prison guards in line with neighboring states would help. Privatizing some operations like food service could save even more.

People from all over the political spectrum — business conservatives, social liberals, academics and the state's financial advisors — have for years urged cost-conscious prison reform.

Any concrete results? Nah. In part, Republicans fear being accused of being "soft on crime."

Second: Bring Michigan state worker benefit costs in line with the national average. How big? Around \$275 million. Both the Small Business Association and The Center for Michigan reached that conclusion in separate studies earlier this year.

Republicans are going to have a harder time swallowing the first of these two suggestions. Democrats, the second — but both are vitally necessary. For awhile earlier this summer, both Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Democratic lawmakers talked a good game about reforming pay and benefits for state employees earlier. But not recently. The story in Lansing is that public employee labor leaders are holding court in the capital, holding the line against reforms among the troops who

want labor campaign contributions later on.

Detroit News columnist Daniel Howes, in a stinging column last Saturday, asked of labor leaders: "Tell us how you explain to recently retired auto workers fearing for their pension and health benefits that they have to pay higher taxes so their pals in the public sector won't be asked to do the same?" Answer: You can't, and sooner or later they'll wake up to the rank hypocrisy and fight back."

And although much of the debate on the revenue side of the budget argument has had to do with the income tax, here's a quick, simple and fair way to bring in an added \$300 million each year: Tax beverages.

States like Texas and California raise more than \$100 million each year by taxing unhealthy, sugar-saturated soft drinks; they're classified as "food" in Michigan and therefore not taxed.

Our tax on beer was last adjusted 41 years ago... when it was cut to just under two cents per beer. Two cents in 1966, adjusted for inflation, would be about 14 cents a bottle today.

All lawmakers would have to do to raise \$225 million would be to raise beer taxes to keep up with inflation. But they haven't. Why not? Because the beer and wine lobby is among the most powerful in Lansing. And lots of legislators are scared they'd anger blue collar beer drinkers. So, instead, they're arguing about an income tax increase that would cost a \$50,000-a-year blue collar worker another \$275. That would buy an awful lot of beer.

There you have it; three simple ideas to make our government more efficient and less costly. There are lots of others. Benchmarking public employee pension and health care benefits against public employees elsewhere or (gasp!) private sector workers. Find ways vastly to increase collaboration and service sharing among Michigan's thousands of local government units and school districts.

And if government is indeed to be more accountable and effective, we need more experienced, strategic, competent and decisive leaders — leaders who are willing to set aside traditional party politics to find common ground strategies to move Michigan forward.

Why has this been so hard? Mainly for two reasons: First, the law we passed setting strict and short term limits makes sure that we will be ruled by lawmakers who are relatively inexperienced. Second, the way we redraw legislative district boundaries assures that candidates at each political extreme are mostly the ones elected.

The ideas I'm proposing here are neither new nor particularly complicated. They're common sense ways of finding common ground that most of Michigan's 10 million citizens can agree on.

So how do we get people talking about making common sense the centerpiece of our political discussions? That will be the subject of community conversations taking place throughout Michigan next month as part of the Michigan's Defining Moment campaign.

If you like the way things are going, don't bother to come. Otherwise, to learn more or reserve a seat at a conversation near you, go to www.thecenterformichigan.net.



NOVI NEWS STAFF			
			
Grace Perry - General Manager gperry@gannett.com (248) 349-1700, ext. 120	Victoria Mitchell - Editor vmitchell@gannett.com (248) 349-1700, ext. 102	Jeff Thelison - Sports Writer jthelison@gannett.com (248) 349-1700, ext. 104	Barb Dmoch - Advertising bdmoch@gannett.com (248) 349-1700, ext. 116
			
Kelly Murad - Staff Writer kmurad@gannett.com (248) 349-1700, ext. 103	Chris Jackett - Staff Writer cjackett@gannett.com (248) 349-1700, ext. 122	John Heider - Staff Photographer jheider@gannett.com (248) 349-1700, ext. 106	Abbie Holden - Office Asst. aholden@gannett.com (248) 349-1700
			
			Margery Taurainen - Office Asst. mtaurainen@gannett.com (248) 349-1700
			
			Lisa Dranginis - Ad Manager ldranginis@gannett.com (248) 437-2011
			
			Nicole Stone - R.E. Acct. Exec. nstone@gannett.com (248) 349-1700

LET'S TALK WITH **GARY S. WEINSTEIN** GEMOLOGIST

JUST ADD WATER TO GET FIRE

Opal, the birthstone for October, is quite unusual. Unlike other gemstones, its structure is not truly crystalline. In fact, this "wonder stone" shares the same chemical formula with quartz with the addition of 5-10 percent water (or more). In effect, opal consists of irregular pockets of spherical chains of silicon and oxygen (surrounded by water), which reflect light at various wavelengths, creating color. As a result, what you see is opal's remarkable display of different colors that differ in intensity in accordance with the angle at which they are viewed. No other gemstone is capable of such remarkable flashes of light. It is the play of color, or nacreousness, that lovers of this gemstone find so captivating.

To display the great beauty of this phenomenal gemstone in its best advantage, opals are often cut into dome shapes, formed into beads, or carved into shapes for pendants. When paired with diamond or colored gemstones, the effect can be absolutely beautiful. Why not give the gift of birthstone jewelry to the new arrivals in your family? Visit WEINSTEIN JEWELRY OF NOVI, 41591 Grand River Ave., to choose among an extraordinary selection of opals and other fine gemstone jewelry, always of the highest quality, always in creative designs. We're open Tues. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Wed. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. closed Sunday & Monday. MI. residents are welcome. *Valued at \$25.00. Novi is offering loans on jewelry.

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P.S. Opal's name is probably derived from the Sanskrit word for precious stone, "upala".

SPOTLIGHT ON

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

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Victoria Mitchell, editor
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vmitchell@gannett.com



MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, September 27, 2007
www.novibulletinboard.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

EVENTS

"Pearls of Wisdom"
DATE: Daily through Sept. 31 (closed Sunday)
LOCATION: Picasso Cafe, 39915 Grand River, Novi
DETAILS: This exhibit features drawings of life figures by artist Barbara Eko Murphy.
CONTACT: www.barbaraeko-murphy.com

Gardeners of Novi and Northville
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. second Monday of each month, Sept.-May
LOCATION: Rotate between Novi Civic Center and Northville Library
DETAILS: Visitors welcome.
CONTACT: (248) 231-2334 or www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org

Farmers Market
DATE: Every Wednesday through the end of October
TIME: 7 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Walled Lake City Hall Field (between Decker and Pontiac Trail), Walled Lake
DETAILS: Vendor applications currently accepted; cost of booth is \$12 per day, special discounts are offered.
CONTACT: Call Janell Joyce (248) 624-4847 for application and other information.

Borders Express Educators Savings Week
DATE: Through Oct. 2
LOCATION: Twelve Oaks Mall
DETAILS: All educators, including retired, home school, dance, teachers of any kind, will receive 25 percent off on all purchases (except periodicals and gift cards).
CONTACT: (248) 735-8301

Novi Rotary Club
TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday
LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. Ten Mile Road
DETAILS: Lunch is \$10 at meeting; visitors welcome; check website for speaker information. www.noviroty.org.
Annual Holiday Raffle
Dinner
DATE: Friday, Dec. 14
DETAILS: Enjoy an enchanting evening of "Dancing with the Stars," help support our various community efforts with the purchase of a raffle ticket; tickets are \$125 but only 125 will be sold; Grand Prize is \$5,000 but other prizes also awarded.
CONTACT: Ginger Barrons at (248) 348-0551 or email Ginger at novirotyrotary@twmri.com

Right to Life Open Public Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, September 27
LOCATION: Novi Public Library, 45245 W. Ten Mile Road
DETAILS: For pro-life residents of Novi, Northville, Wixom, Walled Lake, Farmington and Farmington Hills, will discuss forming a new Right to Life of Michigan (RLM) affiliate; Field Rep. Christopher Zielinski will speak about importance of having active RLM affiliate in community.

Voice-over Course
TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2
LOCATION: Novi Community Education
DETAILS: Professional voice artist Mike Turnbull introduces "You're on the Air: How to Really Make it in Voice-overs," launch a career in this industry; \$20.
CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

Blood Drive
TIME/DATE: 1-7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3
LOCATION: Rutter Estate One, 43155 Main St. (upper atrium)
CONTACT: John O'Brien or Kathy Solan (248) 348-6430

"Lights, Camera, Action!"
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23

LOCATION: Emagine Theatre, 44425 W. 12 Mile Road
DETAILS: Event hosted by Variety's Children's Charity features a strolling supper and a movie preview; proceeds benefit "Bikes for Kids" in Metro Detroit; tickets \$50 per person, patron tickets \$100 per person.

Catholic Central High School Mother's Clubs Holiday Craft Show
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3
DETAILS: Vendors and crafters wanted; Holiday Craft Show is open to all artists, crafters or business people selling items suitable for holiday gift giving; contact (810) 231-3235 or (248) 705-9519.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce
We're about business. We're about networking. We're about creating excitement in business and networking! Everyone is welcome to attend any of our events. For more information call Whitney, executive director (248) 347-4622 or wmgncce@yahoo.com. Also visit our website: www.greaternovichamber.com.

Sales Leads Group 1
TIME/DATE: 8:30-9:30 a.m., second and fourth Thursday of the month
LOCATION: Hooper's of Novi
DETAILS: Serious networking, no fee.
CONTACT: Michelle Winn at (248) 835-3754
Arts Round Table
TIME/DATE: 5:30 p.m. first Tuesday of every month
LOCATION: Mixx Lounge, Main Street
DETAILS: Discussing art and culture in our area; all welcome; free.

Grapes and Grooves
TIME/DATE: 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28
LOCATION: Main Street Atrium of Novi (south of I-96, off Novi Road)
DETAILS: Dazzling event features wine tasting, strolling appetizers, live jazz band and silent auction; register ahead \$30 or \$40 at the door.
Member Luncheon
TIME/DATE: Registration, 11:30 a.m.; Lunch, noon; Wednesday, Oct. 3
LOCATION: Sheraton of Novi, Haggerty Road
DETAILS: Take advantage of this opportunity to introduce yourself and your business. Cost is \$25 for members, otherwise \$30.
B2B Breakfast
TIME/DATE: 7:45 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10
LOCATION: Boerema-Chaben & Company, 25965 Novi Road
DETAILS: Networking opportunity; \$5 for members, otherwise \$10.
Meet the Candidates
TIME/DATE: 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18
LOCATION: Mixx Lounge, Main Street
DETAILS: Chat with Kathy Crawford, Bob Gatt, Mayor David Landry and David Staudt; everyone is welcome.

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
Women in Business
TIME/DATE: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23
LOCATION: The Works Atrium Salon, 1123 E. West Maple Road, Ste. 5, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Inaugural event for new women's group; meet other business women and sample spa services; free gift bag and chance to win a makeover; \$25 per person.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
Since 1963, the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce has proudly served as West Oakland's Regional Chamber, servicing the communities of Commerce Township, Union Lake, Walled Lake, Waterford, Wixom, Wolverine Lake and White Lake. Our purpose is to improve the quality of life for businesses and residents in the Lakes area. We act as a 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 develop programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve. For more information visit www.lakes.org (248) 624-2826.

Taste of the Lakes
TIME/DATE: 5-8 p.m. tonight
LOCATION: Edgewood Country Club, 8395 Commerce Road, Commerce
DETAILS: Event features cuisine, cash bar, raffle and auction; tickets \$20.
CONTACT: LAVA office (248) 956-5070

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 round-table. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Jan Hubbard, jhubbard@walshcollege.edu

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Healing Arts
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; call (248) 465-5455 if interested.
Colored Pencil Workshop
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
DETAILS: The cost is \$2; beginners welcome.
Ceramics Class
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 1-5 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: \$10 materials fee.
Knit'n' Yarns
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: Join others and create hats and shawls for those in need.
Tai Chi Class
TIME/DATE: 10:15-11 a.m. Thursday
DETAILS: Ancient Chinese exercise used to improve flexibility, balance, strength; no experience necessary; \$5.
Meditation
TIME/DATE: 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Thursday
DETAILS: Learn proper breathing techniques that can be used at home or on the job to help reduce stress; class held in reflection space, Cancer Center.
Yoga Classes
TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday (for backs); 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday (strength & endurance); 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Wednesday and 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday (for backs)
DETAILS: \$10/walk-in; \$80/10-class card; \$70/7-week evening session; registration required.
Massage
TIME/DATE: Various times, Monday and Thursday
DETAILS: Therapeutic massage is effective for stress and tension, chronic fatigue, pain and headaches. Everyone is welcome. Patients undergoing treatment should bring physician's referral. Call for appointment.

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten 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
CONTACT: (248) 349-9720
Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
Knit'n' and Knotters
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. second and fourth Monday of each month
DETAILS: Drop in for informal needlework group in Youth Area; all levels welcome.
Senior Book Discussion
TIME/DATE: Noon-1:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month
DETAILS: Book discussion group for older adults facilitated by library; please call to join.
Novi Writer's Group
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. Saturday
DETAILS: Inspirational group for adult writers of all genres; facilitated by Kathy Mutch; collaborate, critique and create with other writers. Registration required.
Nutrition News
TIME/DATE: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday
DETAILS: Know how to read nutritional labels, if supplements are worth it, good information for the elderly, parents and children; register online or call library.
Library Board Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: Community members welcome to attend.
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4
DETAILS: Call for titles; program is once monthly, for adults.
Solid Brass Quintet
TIME/DATE: 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7
DETAILS: Solid brass quintet to perform music of Scott Joplin and Hoagy Carmichael, opera and kids songs; free; please register.
Page Turners
TIME/DATE: 5-5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10
DETAILS: Enjoy a snack, play a game, discuss "The Boggart" by Susan Cooper.
Fall Family Fun Night
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

ment: \$50/50-minute session.

Line Dancing
DATE: Monday and Friday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m. intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: No partner needed; pay-as-you-go; Novi residents \$5, non-residents \$6.
■ Fax: (248) 349-9832
■ E-mail: vmitchell@gannett.com

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi Community School District Board of Education Meeting
DATE: Thursday, Oct. 4
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: TBD
CONTACT: (248) 347-4204

Novi City Council Meeting
DATE: Monday, Oct. 8
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
TIME: 6 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Wines You Must Try
TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11
LOCATION: Mezza Mediterranean Grille, 42050 Grand River
DETAILS: Walk-around wine tasting with over 50 wines from the area's smaller, more selective distributors; buffet of Mediterranean food, advance tickets (available at By the Bottle) \$30 or \$35 at the door.

Light up a Life Benefit
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13
LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace, Diamond Center
DETAILS: Angela Hospice hosts gala benefiting programs for terminally ill patients and their families. Theme is "Groovin' and Cruisin'" through the 60s. Event features live performances, hors d'oeuvres, open bar, silent auction, raffles, plated dinner, dessert, best-dressed contest. Make reservations at www.angela-hospice.org or call Barbara Paul (734) 953-6914.

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. Ten 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
CONTACT: (248) 349-9720
Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
Knit'n' and Knotters
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. second and fourth Monday of each month
DETAILS: Drop in for informal needlework group in Youth Area; all levels welcome.
Senior Book Discussion
TIME/DATE: Noon-1:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month
DETAILS: Book discussion group for older adults facilitated by library; please call to join.
Novi Writer's Group
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. Saturday
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Nutrition News
TIME/DATE: 7-8 p.m. Tuesday
DETAILS: Know how to read nutritional labels, if supplements are worth it, good information for the elderly, parents and children; register online or call library.
Library Board Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: Community members welcome to attend.

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: vmitchell@gannett.com



■ Deadline: Must be received by noon on Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.
Call (248) 349-1700 for additional information.

Do-It-Yourself Funerals
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9
Preschool Story Hour
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 16
DETAILS: For ages 2-4, registration required; Oct. 16 "A is for Autumn Apples".
Evening with Authors
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23
DETAILS: Book Talks with authors Karen Sieboda, Lori Goff and Linda McLean; refreshments provided.
Creepy Creature Comedy Show
TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25
DETAILS: Interactive Halloween show, surprises, hilarity, not spooky.
Investor Education
TIME/DATE: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27

Wixom Public Library
LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 624-2512
ESL Cafe
TIME/DATE: 3:30 p.m. Thursdays
DETAILS: Coffee and conversation-Improvement your English speaking skills by speaking with people from other countries, trying to improve their English; no tests; instructor help; free.
CONTACT: Karin at the information desk.

Walled Lake City Library
LOCATION: 1489 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday; Closed Friday
CONTACT: (248) 624-3772
Classical Music Series
TIME/DATE: 2 p.m. first Tuesday of each month
DETAILS: Enjoy recorded classics, discussions and refreshments; lasts about 90 minutes.
Friends of the Library
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of each month
DETAILS: Drop in for informal discussion; bring a bag lunch; check library for current book selection.
Evening Preschool Story Hour
TIME/DATE: 6:30 every Thursday
DETAILS: For ages 3-5, no registration required;
Library Board of Trustees Meeting
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Friday of each month
Learning Together
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m.-noon tonight
DETAILS: This playgroup for parents and children's recommended for newborns-36 months. Activities include stories, songs, music, movement; topics for discussion include child development, physical abilities, communication, relationships, sense of self and environment, toilet training, terrific twos, brain development, language and literacy benefits. This free program is conducted by Oakland County Great Parents Start and Early-on. Register by calling (888) 649-6884.
Get Caught Reading
TIME/DATE: Every Tuesday in October
Creative Telling Workshop
TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2
DETAILS: Storyteller Karen Czarnik presents ideas on reading and telling stories.
Big Bag Book Sale
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6; 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7
DETAILS: Friends of the Library invite you to fill grocery bags with books for \$3 each.

of the Library.
Mother's Daughters Book Club
DETAILS: For girls in grades 4-6 and adult female: "The View from Saturday" by R.J. Palacio; Kingsburg available for check out (please register at that time); first meeting 6:30 p.m. Nov. 7, pot-luck dinner and book discussion.
CONTACT: Michael M. Meyer, Doctorate of Ministry

NOVI SENIORS

Novi Senior Activities Center
LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0414
Message: 12:30-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday; call for appointment.

Thursday
9-11 a.m.: Line Dance-Int.
10-10:45 a.m.: Meditation
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: Line Dance-Beg.
Noon: Lunch
12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge
1-3 p.m.: Computer Lab
1:30-3 p.m.: Book Discussion, "My Sisters Keeper" by Jodi Picoult
2:30-3:30 p.m.: Line Dance
5:30 p.m.: Senior Harvest Ball, Wixom
Friday
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
Noon: Lunch
1 p.m.: Bingo
Saturday
9-10 a.m.: Aqua Exercise at River Oaks Aquatics
Monday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
11 a.m.: Computer Lab until 2 p.m. Noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Pinchle
Tuesday
8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread
Coffee and Conversation 9-11 a.m.: Line Dance-Int. 10 a.m.: Asian Pacific 10:30 a.m.: Novi Ballet Proposal Mtg. 11 a.m.-noon: Computer Lab Noon: Lunch
1 p.m.: Bingo
Wednesday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
11 a.m.: Take Off Pounds Sensibly; Computer Lab until 2 p.m.; Blood Pressure 11:30 a.m.-Bog. Clogging 12:30 p.m. Club Clogging
1 p.m.: "The Story of Christmas" and "Talk It Out" 6:30 p.m.: Beg/Int. Clogging 7:30 p.m.: Club Clogging

Wixom Public Library
LOCATION: 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
HOURS: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 624-2512
ESL Cafe
TIME/DATE: 3:30 p.m. Thursdays
DETAILS: Coffee and conversation-Improvement your English speaking skills by speaking with people from other countries, trying to improve their English; no tests; instructor help; free.
CONTACT: Karin at the information desk.
Mommy and Me
TIME/DATE: 10:30-11 a.m. Thursdays, Oct. 11, 18 and 25
DETAILS: Registration begins Tuesday; stories, songs and projects for two-year-olds accompanied by an adult; meet in Craft Room.
Preschool Story Hour
DATE: 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in Oct. or 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Oct.
DETAILS: Registration begins Tuesday, Sept. 10; stories, songs and art activities for three-year-olds and up with an adult in library; meet in Craft Room.
Baby Days
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 15, 22, 29 and Nov. 5
DETAILS: Drop-in story time for children up to 24 months and parents.
Fantastic Fridays
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 28
DETAILS: "Sweet 16 - Let's Celebrate!" stories, songs, crafts and food; for ages 2-6 with a parent; registration begins Sept. 10.
Moonlight Story Time
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1
DETAILS: Please register.
Laugh Out Loud During Teen Read Week
DATES: Oct. 14-20
DETAILS: Vote for your favorite joke for prize drawings; Speed Stacking Competition at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15 (register in advance); Comic Timing seminar at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20 (register in advance).
Haunted Michigan
TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 23
DETAILS: Spooky stories of Michigan's own ghosts; registration begins Sept. 1.
Used Book Sale
TIME/DATE: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20
DETAILS: All proceeds to benefit library; sponsored by Friends

Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks
Independent Living Residence, Licensed Assisted Living, Licensed Memory Care
LOCATION: 27475 Huron Circle (adjacent to Twelve Oaks Mall)
CONTACT: (248) 736-1500
Open House
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily or by appointment. Picnic Tuesdays offers free box lunch for two if one member is over age 60.

Living With the Loss of a Spouse
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Sunday for six weeks
LOCATION: Our Lady of Sorrows, 3815 Power Road, Farmington Hills
DETAILS: Widowed men and women are welcome to attend this program. Grief Recovery is conducted by members of Widowed Friends, a peer support ministry; a \$20 fee covers all materials; call Shirley at (248) 333-3284 to register by Sept. 24.

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 required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595

Bereavement Support Group
DATE: third Tuesday of each month
TIME: 7:30-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road
DETAILS: The meeting provides the opportunity for those in grief to share their story and to learn about the phases and tasks of grief. All are welcome; no fee.
CONTACT: Michael M. Meyer, Doctorate of Ministry

Angela Hospice Groups
DETAILS: Grief support groups include general grief, loss of a spouse, women's grief, parents who have lost a child and a grief support quilters group. All groups are led by bereavement professionals and trained volunteers.
LOCATION: Angela Hospice Care Center, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia
CONTACT: Joan Lee (734) 953-6012
General Grief Support Groups
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. second and fourth Tuesday of month
DETAILS: Open to all losses.
Loss of Spouse/Significant Other Support Group
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. first Tuesday of month
Men in Grief
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8 p.m. fourth Monday of month
Suicide Loss Support Services
DETAILS: Individual and family services offered free for those who have lost a loved one through suicide; call (734) 464-7810 for more information.
Children and Teen Grief Support Groups
TIME/DATE: 5-6:30 p.m. every Thursday, Sept. 20 - Nov. 8
DETAILS: For children ages 6-8, 9-12 and 13 and up; free of charge; includes light meal from 5-5:30 p.m.; while children are in group sessions, parents and guardians attend their own group on how to help their children.
Heartstrings: Parents Who Have Lost a Child
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. first Thursday of month
Grief Support-Adults Group
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. first and third Wednesday of month
DETAILS: Register by calling (734) 953-6012

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital Support Groups
LOCATION: 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce
Al-Anon Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
DETAILS: Al-Anon is similar to Alcoholics Anonymous; intended for the family and friends of someone with an alcohol problem; helping them to recover from the effects of living with a problem drinker; registration not required.
CONTACT: (248) 766-1020
Alcoholics Anonymous Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. every Sunday
DETAILS: Support group to attain and maintain sobriety; registration not required.
CONTACT: (248) 937-3314
Journeys Cancer Support Group
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month
LOCATION: Lobby of the Charach Cancer Treatment Center, off the hospital's South Garden Entrance
DETAILS: The Charach Cancer Treatment Center has a support group for anyone dealing with a cancer experience or who know someone living with cancer.
CONTACT: (248) 937-5163
Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group
TIME/DATE: 2-3:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month
LOCATION: Krueger Center (South Garden Entrance)
DETAILS: Designed to allow caregivers to share tips and offer support to each other; for questions or directions call (248) 937-3314.
New Parents Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. second and fourth Wednesdays of each month
LOCATION: Hospital Conference Center
DETAILS: A supportive environment for families to share their struggles, learn how to resolve issues after the birth of a child; discuss concerns such as sleep deprivation and coping with the emotions of parenting.
CONTACT: (248) 658-7766
Support for Smokers Group
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Tuesdays of each month
DETAILS: Provides education and support to quit smoking; no fee and no pre-registration required.
CONTACT: (248) 937-3314

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

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

MOMS Club of Novi
DATE: first Thursday of each month
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
DETAILS: Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children or work out of their homes.
CONTACT: jensungfleming@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) 437-5436 for more information.

Breast Cancer Support Group
DATES: second and fourth Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (Commerce C) Commerce
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.

Heartland Hospice Volunteers Needed
TIME/DATE: day and evening classes
LOCATION: 28588 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 475, Southfield
DETAILS: Caring and compassionate individuals needed to register for Heartland Hospice Volunteer Training. We serve individuals and their families during their end of life journey in the Tri-County area. Office support is also needed.
CONTACT: Mary at (800) 770-9959

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: Amy (248) 752-2800

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 hand-book; \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.

Going to a college game?
The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is making game-day traffic information for University of Michigan and Michigan State University football fans available on the MDOT Web site this football season.
You can find "Getting to the Game" information at www.michigan.gov/gettingtothegame. Game-day travel alerts will be updated regularly.

CONTACT:
Rebecca Boyke (248) 305-8646

FAITH
Meadowbrook Congregational
LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757 or visit www.mbcc.org or gmccc@around-detroit.biz
Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.
MARS
DETAILS: Meadowbrook Academy of Religious Studies present the adult education class "Your Spiritual Autobiography," led by Rev. Ritter in 5 sessions. SCHEDULE: 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday evening and Oct. 16, 23. Those interested should call the church office.
American Red Cross Blood Drive
TIME/DATE: 1-7 p.m. Monday
DETAILS: Call church to arrange an appointment.
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, 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
Youth Worship
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. second and fourth Sunday of every month
DETAILS: All youth welcome.
Alzheimer's Support Group

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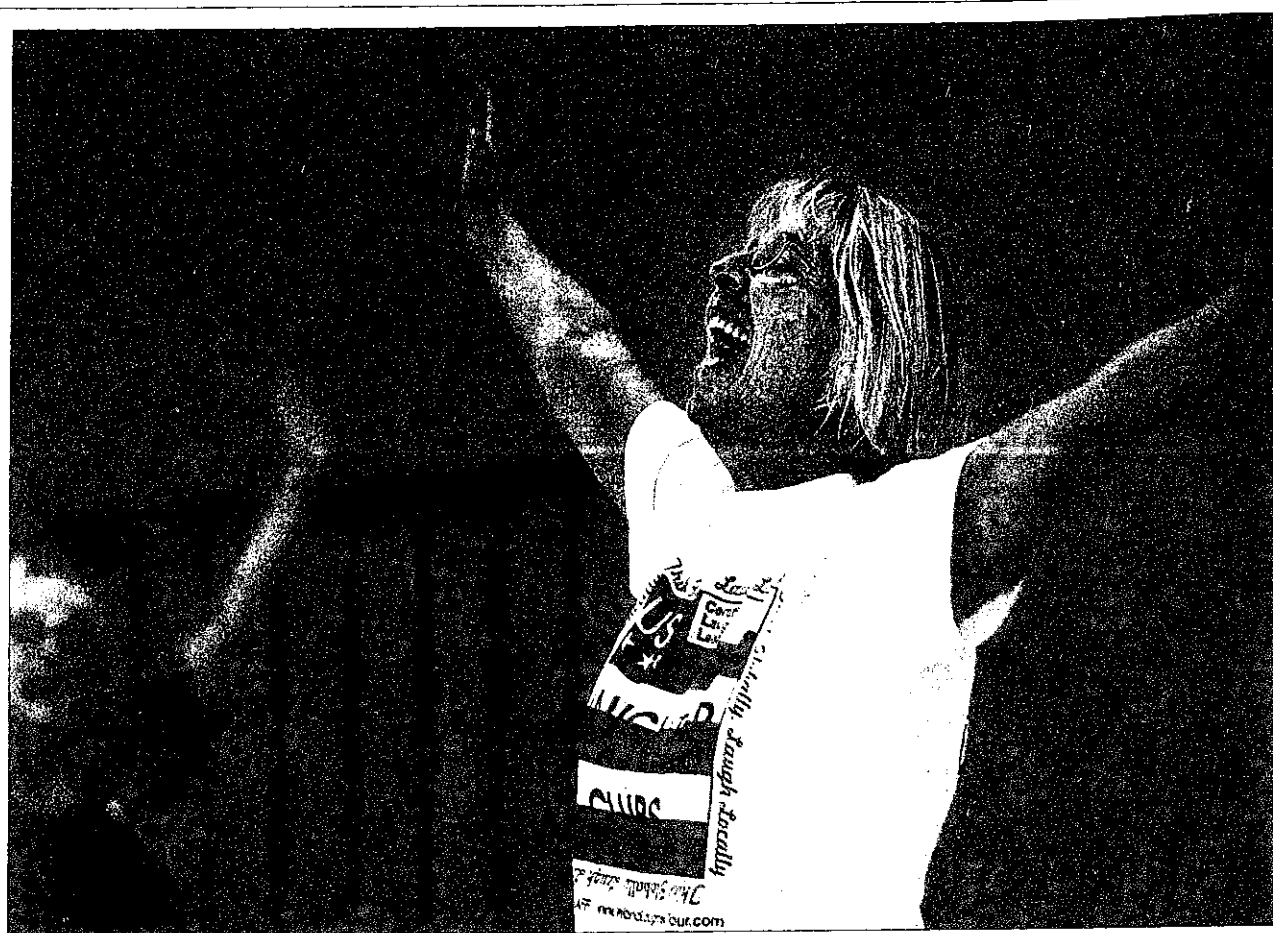


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Laugh Out Loud!

Patti Helsen throws her head back and laughs, leading a group at the Novi Senior Center in a Laughter Club meeting last Monday afternoon. Helsen is part of the World Laughter Tour.com that's teaching people the therapeutic benefits of laughter. The group at the senior center went through a series of "exercises" to stretch their bodies and funny bones. For a video of the laughter club, visit the novinews.com and look for the "Online special of new and archived video news reports". And check out John Heider's video of this event at www.novinews.com.

continued from 15A

Healing Service
DATE: First Monday of every month
TIME: 4 p.m.

Men's Bible Study
TIME/DATE: 6:30-7:30 a.m. every Wednesday
LOCATION: Room 10
Sharing Hearts Women's Bible Study
TIME/DATE: 12:45-2:30 p.m. every Tuesday

LOCATION: Chapel upstairs
DETAILS: Child care available; cost is \$11 for materials.
Disciple One Bible Study
TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. every Sunday, or 9:30-11:30 a.m. every Wednesday
DETAILS: Course lasts 34 weeks; covers 70 percent of the Bible.

Disciple Three Bible Study: Remember Who You Are
TIME/DATE: 9:30-11:30 a.m. every Wednesday
Disciple Bible Study: Jesus and the Gospels
TIME/DATE: 3-5 p.m. every Sunday

The Faith Club
TIME/DATE: 9:30 a.m. every other Thursday
DETAILS: This interfaith group will be reading "The Faith Club"; register at (248) 344-4248.
Survivor Loss Support Group
DATE: Second Thursday and fourth Monday of each month
TIME: 7 p.m.

DETAILS: New Hope Center for Grief Support is offering this support group to those who have

lost a loved one to suicide.
Registration is not required.
CONTACT: New Hope Center for Grief Support (248) 348-0115 or www.newhopecenter.net

LOGOS Youth Club
TIME/DATE: 5:15-8:15 p.m. each Wednesday
DETAILS: Program includes recreation, dinner, bible study and music; grades 4-12.

Crop Walk
TIME/DATE: 1:30 p.m. registration, 2 p.m. walk starts Sunday, Oct. 7
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, Ten Mile Road between Novi and Oak Road
DETAILS: 1.6 KM (6.2 mile) walk or 1.6 KM (1 mile) walk for world hunger through Novi and Northville.

Crosspointe Meadows
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook Road (south of 13 Mile Road)
CONTACT: (248) 427-2700, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.

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.

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

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:30 and 11 a.m.
Single Place Ministries
DETAILS: Thursday evenings; 7:30 p.m. social time; 7:45 p.m. opening; 8-9 p.m. program; \$5
CONTACT: (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org

Religion and Relationships
DATE: Tonight with J. Harold Ellens, Ph.D.
Walking Group
TIME: 11:30 a.m. every Saturday
LOCATION: First, second and fourth Saturday, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington; Third Saturday, Panera Bread Co., 34635 Grand River Ave., Farmington
DETAILS: This is a walking/social group. Everyone is invited.

St. John Lutheran
LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road,

Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School
TIME: 10:15 a.m.

Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington
LOCATION: 25301 Halsted Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 318-8044 or www.uufarmington.org
2nd Annual Earth Friendly Craft Fair
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday

DETAILS: Features handmade art and crafts from local Michigan artists including crafts from recycled materials; live music; children's activities; refreshments; crafters welcome to apply until fair day.
Thornetta Davis Performance
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. Friday (doors open at 7 p.m.)
DETAILS: Performance by Detroit's own singer and songwriter Thornetta Davis; tickets for concert are \$15 (\$17 at door) and are available at church office; refreshments provided; kickoff event for free, six-week Lifelong Learning Forum adult education program Oct. 4-Nov. 8, public welcome.

Faith Community Presbyterian
LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org

GracePointe Presbyterian Church
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Sunday
LOCATION: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Novi (northwest corner of I-96 and Novi Road)
CONTACT: (248) 497-3178; www.gracepointepc.org; e-mail gracepointe@mac.com

Orchard Hills Baptist Church
LOCATION: 23455 Novi Road
CONTACT: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665
Practical Spiritual Divorce Care Workshop
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8:30 p.m. every Monday through Nov. 5
DETAILS: Register online www.orchardhillsnovi.com
CONTACT: Stephen E. Monette (248) 982-4558 or info@orchardhillsnovi.com

HEALTH

Expectant Parent Class
TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. Monday evenings through Oct. 15
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Six weekly sessions to help parents-to-be prepare for the birth of their baby; taught by Public Health Nurses; topics include childbirth, labor and delivery, care of the newborn, feeding, etc.; cost is \$25, registration required by calling (248) 858-4003 or (888) 350-0900 ext. 84003.

Big Heart/Big Heart 5K/5M
DATE: Sunday
DETAILS: The Ann Arbor All

Dinner with a Doctor
LOCATION: St. John Providence Park Hospital, Grand River and Oak Road (use Beck Road entrance), Conference Rooms A, B and C.
Which Heart Test is Right for You?
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8:30 p.m. tonight
DETAILS: Dr. Shukri David and Dr. Souheil Saba
Taking Charge of Your Breast Health
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18
DETAILS: Dr. Linda Dubay

Oakland Physical Therapy
LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Ave., Suite B124, Providence Park Medical Center
CONTACT: 248-380-3550
Managing Osteoporosis & Osteoarthritis
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. tonight
DETAILS: Presenter is Frank Kava, MS, PT, OCS, OMP.

Fit After Fifty
TIME/DATE: 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28
DETAILS: Author of "My Momma Likes to Say" and "My Teacher Likes to Say."
Calleen Burcar
TIME/DATE: 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30
DETAILS: Author of "Michigan Curiousities" and "You Know You're in Michigan When..."

International Gem and Jewelry Show
TIME/DATE: Noon-6 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday
DETAILS: Largest exhibition of gems, beads, minerals and jewelry under one roof; no strollers; \$7 admission; \$5 parking.
18th Annual Detroit Camper & RV Show
TIME/DATE: 2-9 p.m. Oct. 3-5; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Oct. 6; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 7
DETAILS: Admission for adults \$8, children 12 and under are free; parking \$5.
Fall Remodeling & Design Expo
TIME/DATE: 12-9 p.m. Oct. 12; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Oct. 13; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 14
DETAILS: Admission for adults

Charity finishes in the Big House; benefits local charities, ALS Research Center and Mott Children's Hospital. Sponsored by Running Fit, 26140 Ingersoll Dr.
CONTACT: (248) 347-4949.

DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital
LOCATION: 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce
CONTACT: (248) 937-3314
5th Annual Women's Cancer Event
TIME/DATE: 8:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 5
LOCATION: Embassy Suites, Livonia
DETAILS: Our 50th reunion open to all 50's graduates; cost is \$90 per person; includes dinner, open bar, memory book, champagne toast and more; register early as seating is limited.
CONTACT: Loretta Nedwick at (800) 859-9502 or lorak@wideopenwest.com

Detroit Mackenzie High School Class of 1957
DATE: Friday, Oct. 19
TIME: 6:30 p.m. to midnight
LOCATION: Radisson, 17123 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia
DETAILS: The cost is \$75 per person. Mail M. vonGlabbe, 20997 Chase Drive, Novi, MI 48375 for tickets; deadline is Sept. 30. Reunion committee is looking for classmates from the class of 1957.

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ONGOING

SWOCC Studio Tours

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

Gardeners of Northville and Novi

DATE: second Tuesday of month, September through May
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Rotates between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library.
DETAILS: Visitors welcome.
CONTACT: (248) 231-2334 or visit www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org

BORDERS BOOKS AND MUSIC

43075 Crescent Blvd., Novi
CONTACT: (248) 347-0780
"The Bus" Book Signing with Devin Scillian
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5

Book Reading & Signing
Borders Express, Twelve Oaks Mall
(248) 735-8301
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TIME/DATE: 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30
DETAILS: Author of "Michigan Curiousities" and "You Know You're in Michigan When..."

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 348-5600 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com> for more information.
American Sewing Expo
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday
DETAILS: \$12 admission; no strollers or rolling carts; \$5 parking.

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DETAILS: Admission for adults

\$6, seniors \$5, children 12 and under are free; parking \$5.

CLASS REUNIONS

Detroit Cody High School Class of 1957
DATE: Friday, Oct. 5
LOCATION: Embassy Suites, Livonia
DETAILS: Our 50th reunion open to all 50's graduates; cost is \$90 per person; includes dinner, open bar, memory book, champagne toast and more; register early as seating is limited.
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DETAILS: Admission for adults

Kensington Metropark
www.METROPARKS.com
CONTACT: (800) 477-3178
Calling All Owls
TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Friday
LOCATION: Nature Center
DETAILS: Learn about owls and try to locate them; fee is \$2 per person; pre-registration required.

Nature's Nutcases
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. Saturday
LOCATION: Nature Center
DETAILS: Explore the variety of plant seeds and learn how they function; free is \$2 per person, pre-registration required.

Birds of Prey
TIME/DATE: 2 p.m. Sunday
LOCATION: Nature Center
DETAILS: Learn about hawks, owls and vultures; fee is \$2 per person; pre-registration required.

Bowling for Bunnies: A Benefit for Midwest Rabbit Rescue
TIME/DATE: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13
LOCATION: Clover Lanes, 28900 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia
DETAILS: Cost of \$16 per person includes three games of bowling, shoe/ball rental, pizza, pop and birthday cake to celebrate our second anniversary; advance tickets only, used cell phones collected during event; proceeds benefit 140 rescued rabbits at Midwest Rabbit Rescue.
CONTACT: Debbie at (248) 994-7503, e-mail to Debbie@myreasures.net or visit www.ira

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New Stores at Twelve Oaks Mall

New Stores	Existing Stores	Existing Existing Stores
Arden B Belsey Johnson California Pizza Kitchen Clarks Coldwater Creek Florsheim For Love 21 GUSS Amy's Hallmark Gold Crown Store Illuminations The Levi's Store Lucky Brand Jeans Lucky LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics Martin + Osa Metropark Moonstruck Chocolate Cafe Oakley O Store Skechers Starbucks Tapestry Diamonds & Fine Jewelry	Banana Republic bebe Coach Everything But Water Franklin Cove J.B. Robbins Papyrus Select Comfort Sephora Williams-Sonoma	Aerie by American Eagle A/X Armani Exchange bebe Sport journey's Kidz PUMA Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory Shi by Journeys ZOUJI Fresh Soup Company

SOURCE: Twelve Oaks Mall

DETAILS: For ages 13-18; bring a friend and join the fun; monthly meetings to plan activities, special teen events and community service projects.
6th Annual Monster Mash
TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19
DETAILS: Come dressed to give the crowd a chuckle or scare, DJ will play the latest knock dead hits; cost is \$9 per person for ages 2 and up; pizza dinner and treats; bring your camera; must pre-register by 3 p.m. on Oct. 18.

South Lyon Square Dance Club

LOCATION: VW Post 2502, 125 E. McHattie St., South Lyon
DETAILS: American Square Dancing; no experience necessary, public and families welcome.
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m.
Tuesday: Introduction to Western Square Dance; \$3
Wednesday, Oct. 10: Old Fashioned Square Dance; \$4
CONTACT: <http://squaredancechicago.net> or call (248) 486-0043

"My Home-My Future" Seminars

DETAILS: The Oakland County Board of Commissioners is hosting a series of free seminars to help residents save homes from foreclosure; information presented by housing industry professionals and agencies; contact Oakland County Housing Counseling at (888) 350-0900, ext. 85402; schedule below
TIME/DATE: 6:30-9 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 23 at Oakland County Executive Office Building, Conference Center - East Room, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford
TIME/DATE: 6:30-8:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008 at Baldwin Public Library, 300 W. Merrill, Birmingham

Read Carpet Annual Dinner Auction

TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2
LOCATION: Livonia Marriott, Laurel Park Place
DETAILS: Enjoy cocktails and strolling gourmet dinner while perusing silent auction tables; stay late for live entertainment and dancing; portion of proceeds benefit Michigan Dyslexia Institute, Inc. Hosted by Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool.
CONTACT: (734) 261-9540 or www.academicpathwayspreschool.com

United Methodist Women's 6th Annual Craft Show

TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3
LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 640 S. Lafayette St., South Lyon
DETAILS: Applications are now being taken for the 6th Annual Craft Show; booth rental is \$35 with electricity \$5 extra; booth placement in given by date of paid registration; call Lynn at (248) 437-8612 for an application or with questions.

University Musical Society, University of Michigan

PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS: Hill Auditorium, 825 North University Ave., Rackham Auditorium, 915 East Washington St., Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Michigan Theater, 603 East Liberty St.
CONTACT: (734) 764-2538, (800) 221-1228 or visit www.ums.org
Second Visit to the Empress
TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday
LOCATION: Power Center
DETAILS: Chinese opera and contemporary dance performed in Chinese with English subtitles; 70 minutes; no intermission; tickets \$20-\$48.
Beethoven Sonata Cycle Concerts 1 and 2
DATE: Wednesday and Friday, Oct. 5
TIME: 8 p.m.
LOCATION: Rackham

Auditorium
DETAILS: Andras Schiff on piano; tickets \$22-\$45.
Flamenco Della Scala
TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6
LOCATION: Hill Auditorium
DETAILS: Riccardo Chailly, conductor and Ben Happer, tenor; tickets \$10-\$75.
Kristyan Zimmerman, Piano
TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12
LOCATION: Hill Auditorium
DETAILS: Tickets \$10-\$56.
Dianne Reeves with Special Guest Romero Lubambo
TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13
LOCATION: Hill Auditorium
DETAILS: Peter Martin, piano; Ruben Rogers, bass; Greg Hutchinson, drums; tickets \$10-\$48.
Cudamant: Odalan Ball
TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19
LOCATION: Hill Auditorium
DETAILS: Tickets \$10-\$38
Pamela Devi: a Cambodian Magic Film
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20; 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21
LOCATION: Power Center
DETAILS: Choreography, traditional music arrangements and lyrics by Saphine Cheam Shapiro; performed by the Khmer Arts Ensemble (Phnom Penh); tickets \$18-\$44
Spiritual Sounds of Central Asia: Nomads, Mystics and Troubadours
TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24
LOCATION: Michigan Theater
DETAILS: Alim Qasimov Ensemble, The Barde Divas, Badkshan Ensemble; tickets \$16-\$40
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
DATE: Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 25-27
TIME: 8 p.m.
LOCATION: Power Center
DETAILS: Jim Vincent, artistic director; tickets \$20-\$48.
Russian Patriarchate Choir
TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 30
LOCATION: St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium Blvd.
DETAILS: Anatoly Grindenko, director; tickets \$45 reserved seating, \$35 general admission.

Ward Evangelical Church
LOCATION: 40000 Six Mile Road, Northville
CONTACT: (248) 374-5978
Sunday AM Women's Bible Study
TIME/DATE: 10:20-11:15 a.m. every Tuesday through Dec. 30
LOCATION: Room A101-103
DETAILS: Karen Notterkamper covers "The Life You're Always Wanted," a study by John Ortberg.
WOW Bible Studies
TIME/DATE: 9:30-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday through Dec

PINE TREE LIGHTING

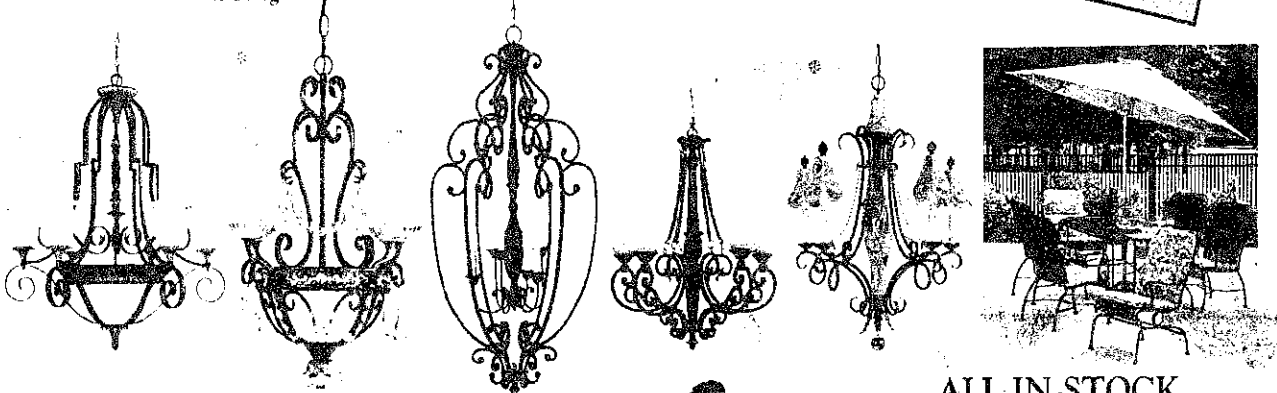
OUR MOST AMAZING SHOWROOM SALE EVER!

2 WEEKS ONLY! Sale Ends Sun., Oct. 7th
OPEN SUNDAY 9/30 & 10/7
11AM-4PM

A SALE TOO BIG TO MISS!
50% OFF EVERY GREEN TAG ITEM IN THE STORE!

Thousands of items to choose from! Hurry in for best selection! Take an additional 50% off our already reduced everyday prices on Green Tag lighting fixtures, lamps, mirrors, framed artwork, accent furniture and accessories during our amazing **GREEN TAG "Showroom Sale!"** Look for the Green Tags throughout our showroom for unbelievable deals!

The BIG GREEN TAG SALE!



Hurry in to our 14,000 square foot showroom for best selection! **THIS SALE IS WORTH THE TRIP!**

ALL IN-STOCK PATIO FURNITURE & OUTDOOR ACCESSORIES DRastically REDUCED!
 Lowest prices of the season! Choose from wrought iron, wicker, rattan, aluminum, cast aluminum, bistro's, market umbrellas, outdoor patio rugs and garden accessories!

- Lighting Fixtures • Lamps
- Home Accessories
- Bath Vanities
- Casual Dining Furniture
- Bar Stools

Pine Tree Lighting
PATIO FURNITURE HOME ACCESSORIES

- Accent Furniture
- Framed Artwork • Mirrors
- Patio Furniture & More
- Indoor/Outdoor Patio Rugs
- Outdoor Patio/Garden Accessories

1405 S. Lapeer Rd., Lake Orion, MI • 248-693-6248

(4 Miles North of the Palace of Auburn Hills, 1-75 N. to Exit 81 North, Next to Beaumont Medical Center)

Hours: Open Monday & Thursday 9:30 am - 8:00 pm • Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm • Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

www.pinetreelighting.com

*Excludes all crystal chandeliers, special orders and all previous orders.

A store as unique as your home!

Family business continues thriving

By Jason Carmel Davis
 STAFF WRITER

"It's all relative" is a phrase many people use.

"They're all relatives" is a saying that could apply to most of the ownership and staff of Northville's Parmenter's Cider Mill.

Take a walk around the grounds, located at 714 Baseline, with owner Rob Nelson, and he'll introduce you to everyone in his extended family tree.

"My wife, Cheryl, and I are owners with her sister, Diane Jones, and Diane's husband, Mel," Rob said, prior to pointing out sister-in-law, Melva Jones, near the registers.

It doesn't stop there, though. Rob's son, Robb, and his wife, Carina, recently bought the Northville Winery. The couple's daughter, Amanda, and her other half, Paul Vander Heide, have followed in Amanda's parent's footsteps by opening the Vander Mill in Spring Lake, Mich.

"We thought it looked like a fun business to own and operate," Paul said. "Where we are on the west side of the state, there really isn't a cider mill for people to go along the lake shore, so we thought it'd be a good opportunity to open a mill here."

Vander Mill opened during the fall of 2006, Paul said. He said there has been a steady stream of people, and that visitors enjoy the family-friendly atmosphere.

Mel's sons, Mike and Steve, both work at the mill, while Diane's daughter, Sherry, sells pumpkins on the grounds.

Two more of Cheryl and Diane's siblings have roles at Parmenter's, too — sister K.C. Kidder works the Fudge Hut, while Debbie Abner, another sister, runs the Nut Mill with her daughter, Stephanie.

"We're a very close family," Rob said. "We all get along well and enjoy one another's company. That makes the job easier and the days go by faster."

The Jones/Nelson family has been acquainted with the previous owners of the mill, Vern and Ruth Vodka, who owned and operated Parmenter's for 25 years, so they see the Vodka's as family, too. Prior to that, the Parmenter family ran the site for 90 years before selling it to the Vodka's.

"They just told us to keep it simple," Cheryl said.

Diane said it's great to have all those family members together on a daily basis. She said the mill has received great levels of support from adults and young people alike.

"Year after year, we're full and

bustling," she said.

Extended family

People from age two to 82 visit the Mill during the 12 weeks it's open each year — from the Sunday before Labor Day through the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

"Even though we don't open until late August, we usually come in June and do our own repairs and clean-up," Cheryl said. "We like to be ready to welcome people back when we open."

Once open, scores of people flock to the mill, with school groups and tours taking place throughout the week, and senior groups taking in the sights, sounds and smells.

Some of those visitors end up becoming employees, which makes you a part of the family by default. Jon Wagner, a 2007 Northville High School graduate who is going to set sail with the U.S. Navy, has worked at the Jones' and Nelson's for four years. Two of his older sisters worked at Parmenter's, too.

"It's a family tradition," Wagner said. "I'm going to miss it when I have to leave."

Rob, who, in the off-season, runs Redford-based Specialty Door Systems, said the family relies on the young people who, usually at around age 14, come in looking for their first job.

"We employ about 75 people. It takes a lot of people to make this place go, and everybody helps," he said. "It's a fun atmosphere here, and that's what people like about working here."

Cheryl had an interesting story about a visitor doing some pro bono work.

"A friend of our fathers came in one day and saw we were in a panic and decided to help," she said. "And he's around 75 years old."

Wide selection

The choices at Parmenter's go far beyond spiced donuts and apple cider.

These two items are hot sellers, though, as cider is produced in a large, spinning, metal tank five-six days a week, Rob said, adding that 300-350 gallons of the traditional Autumn treat are made at a time.

In the "Donut Room," which is adjacent to the mammoth, whirling cider machine, employees shape and prepare fresh donuts daily, starting at around 7:30 a.m. It's a fast-paced environment, as several donuts come off a conveyor belt at one time, ready to be dressed with cinnamon and sugar. According to Rob, 800 to 1,000 dozen donuts are

Milling around

Here's a listing of Cider Mills in Northville and surrounding areas.

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 5565 Merritt Road, Ypsilanti
 (734) 482-7744
Ashton Orchard & Cider Mill
 3825 Seymour Lake Road, Orionville
 (248) 827-8671
Auburn Orchards Cider Mill
 46482 Dequindre Road, Shelby Township
 (586) 731-6999
Dahl's Orchard & Cider Mill
 1478 Ranch Road, Holly
 (248) 634-9381
Franklin Cider Mill
 7450 Franklin Road, Franklin
 (482) 626-2968
Goodison Cider Mill
 4295 Orion Road, Rochester
 (248) 652-3450
Oak Haven Farm
 7515 Grange Hall Road, Holly
 (248) 634-6437
Obstbaum Orchards
 9252 Currie Road, Northville
 (810) 349-5569
Paint Creek Cider Mill & Restaurant
 4480 Orion Road, Rochester
 (248) 651-8381
Parmenter's Cider Mill
 714 Baseline Road, Northville
 (248) 349-3181
Past Tense Cider Mill
 1955 Farnsworth Road, Lapeer
 (810) 664-5773
Plymouth Orchards & Cider Mill
 10685 Warren Road, Plymouth
 (734) 455-2290



Photo by JOHN HEIDEN/Novi News

Robb Nelson pours a mixture of apple cider and rice hulls into a pressing machine at Northville's Parmenter's Cider Mill. The presser will extract the juice that will make it to the cider bottles. Each busy weekend day, Parmenter's will bottle about 1,000 gallons of cider.

Simple mission

Cheryl said although a number of groups visit the mill each day, the family's biggest supporters are other area families.

She said that's because of one simple reason: "We love the support we've received from everyone," Cheryl said. "All we want to do is make

good cider and donuts, and, based on how busy we are, I guess we're doing a good job."

"I had a visitor come in who moved to California with some of her family. All they wanted her to bring back was some of our donuts and cider."

"Hopefully, we can keep this going for a while."

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My Novi Sports

Catholic Central hosts Eaglets in Boys Bowl

SPORTS, 5B

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: FOOTBALL

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

Wildcats make strong KVC push

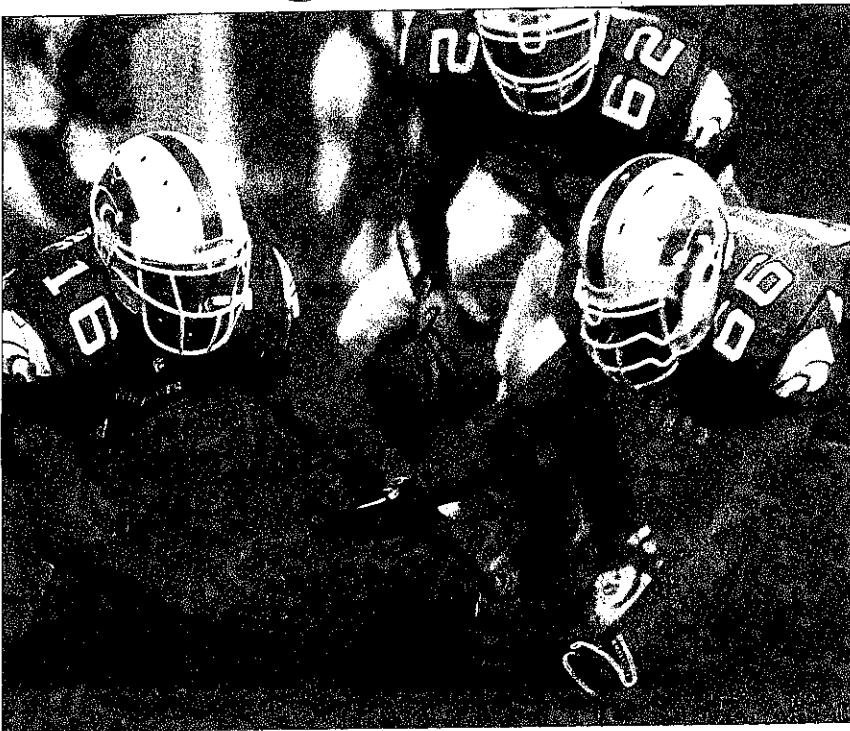


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcats Paul Favorite, left, and Tyler Hoover dive on a Lakeland-fumbled ball last Friday. Novi recovered the loose ball.

Hall's long runs come up huge

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Lakeland led just about every statistical category Friday night, except the most important one — the final score.

Despite having the ball almost one third of the game and collecting just seven first downs compared to 21 for the Eaglets, the Wildcats (4-1, 3-1) celebrated a 10-9 home victory against previously undefeated Lakeland (4-1, 3-1).

"Our coaching staff is really proud of our kids and their resiliency today," Novi head coach Tab Killepourey said. "Lakeland was 4-0 for a reason. They're a tough group of kids."

Two long runs by Novi senior Arshaw Hall changed the game. He broke free for a 41-yard touchdown in the second quarter for a temporary 7-6 lead.

See WILDCATS, 2B

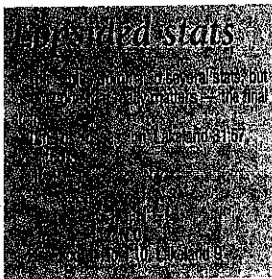


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Garrett Gauruder broke in on the Milford's goalie during this scoring attempt. The goalie, Tyler Howard, made the save.

Novi soccer faces rivals

■ Wildcats face Northville on Saturday

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Getting Novi and Northville together in any sport is fun for both schools.

But getting the Wildcats and Mustangs together on the soccer field showcases top-level soccer from two schools just a few kicks down the road from each other.

The rivals will square off noon Saturday in Northville.

"In this area, the Novi and Northville club programs are really good, so it makes it so the high schools continually have good teams," Novi head coach Brian O'Leary said.

Both teams bring quality

Baseline battle

Who: Novi 7-2-1 at Northville 11-1-2

Where: Northville

When: Noon Saturday

Novi leading scorer: Nate Robinson (11 goals, 7 assists)

Wildcat keepers: Craig Demshuk (5 games, 2 shutouts) and Tom Duquette (6 games, 2 shutouts) will split time in net.

records to the pitch. Northville is slightly better at 11-1-2 through last weekend. Novi is a very respectable 8-2-1 after returning just a couple of starters from last

See SOCCER, 4B

Shamrocks can't ground Pilots in OT

■ CC offense comes up empty in second half, overtime

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central pushed Warren De La Salle to the limit Saturday, but the Shamrocks fell 21-14 in overtime.

The Pilots scored on the opening play of overtime, and the Shamrocks were unable to respond, falling to 3-2, 0-2 in the Central.

"We had an opportunity to win,

but we didn't finish the job," Shamrock head coach Tom Mach said. "We have to start working on that."

The Pilots jumped on the board first with a gadget play — using the running back-pass to set up a touchdown.

Chad O'Shell punched in the score from a yard out to lead 7-0 with 9:49 left in the half.

Not to be outdone, the Shamrocks ran the same play with running back Anthony Capatina hitting Scott Kovanda for a 43-yard score with just less than seven minutes left.

The Shamrocks went ahead when Houska tossed a 11-yard score to Jon Vigi for a 14-7 score that held into halftime and into the

fourth quarter.

"I was real happy with the way the kids came to play," Mach said. "We played tough and inspired. We just didn't make enough big plays when we needed it."

Both teams were held scoreless in the third, but O'Shell scored his second touchdown, a 2-yarder with 10:13 left in the game to tie things up.

The game remained scoreless the rest of regulation, and the teams would get one chance each in overtime from the 10-yard line.

O'Shell did it again, scoring on the first play of overtime.

"He's a very hard man to contain the whole game," said Mach

continued on 5B



Photo submitted by Dennis Barnes

Scott Kovanda hauls in a touchdown pass off a trick play against Warren De La Salle.

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NOVI DROPS LAKELAND



Arshaun Hall is congratulated for his touchdown run by teammate Sam Valkanos during the Wildcats' game against Lakeland.

continued from front

The Eagles kicked a field goal to lead 9-7 at the half.

In the fourth, Hall found a seam in the defense and rambled 67 yards, starting from the left sideline and was brought down at the 2-yard line on the right sideline.

Novi's Matt Masserant booted a 30-yard field goal with 10:00 remaining in the fourth, which turned out to be the game winner.

"It feels great," Masserant said. "It's kind of like a flashback of last year. It came down to the wire where we had to make a field goal. We got the job done."

"Overtaking an undefeated team two weeks in a row, it feels great."

Missed opportunities

The Eagles missed out on plenty of quality chances. They ran 41 offensive plays to Novi's eight in the first half, yet, led by just two at the break.

"We just couldn't find a way to punch it in when we needed it," Lakeland head coach John Maltese said. "We made a couple of critical breakdowns at the wrong times. We had 41 offensive plays (in the first half). You would think we would have more than nine points to show for it."

Ryan Offitt started the scoring, hauling in a 19-yard pass from Blake Heiman on a third-and-18 play to open the second quarter. But the point-after kick was blocked, leaving the Eagles up 6-0.

Hall scored on a 41-yard run just 35 seconds later, and Masserant's extra-point kick put the Wildcats in front.

"The touchdown I made, it was just a beautiful hole," Hall said. "There was one person I had to shake, and that's how it should always be."

"We want that KVC championship," Kyle McNulty ended the first half with a 42-yard field goal for a 9-7 Lakeland lead.

Both teams were held off the scoreboard in the third.

The Eagles held Novi out of the endzone, despite starting with first-and-goal from the 2, but Masserant's 30-yard field goal three plays later stood as the game-winner with 10 minutes left in the game.

Novi's D stands tall

Lakeland's last chance started at its own 1 after Garrett Garauder perfectly placed a punt to the sideline.

Offitt was stopped near the goal line on second down and the referees originally ruled it a safety. They conferred and changed the call to down at the inch-line.

On the next play, Heiman hit Dave Kamenman with a 33-yard pass to pump some life back into

Team	1	2	3	4	Total
Lakeland	0	9	0	0	9
Novi	0	7	0	3	10

KVC Football

W	L	T	W	L
Novi	3	1	4	1
Lakeland	3	1	4	1
Howell	3	1	4	1
South Lyon	3	1	4	1
Brighton	3	1	4	1
Harland	3	1	4	1
Pinckney	3	1	4	1

Second quarter
L—11:54 Ryan Offitt 19 pass from Blake Heiman, kick blocked
N—11:19 Arshaun Hall 41 run, Matt Masserant kick
L—10:00 Kyle McNulty 42 FG
Fourth quarter
N—10:00 Masserant 30 FG

Last week
Brighton 17, Milford 14
Novi 10, Lakeland 9
Howell 30, Pinckney 27
South Lyon 42, Harland 28
This week
Novi at Brighton
Harland at South Lyon
Milford at Lakeland

ond down, and the Eagles never recovered.

"I was just doing everything I could to get to that quarterback," Hoover said. "We were No. 1 in the KVC, and we had to take it from them."

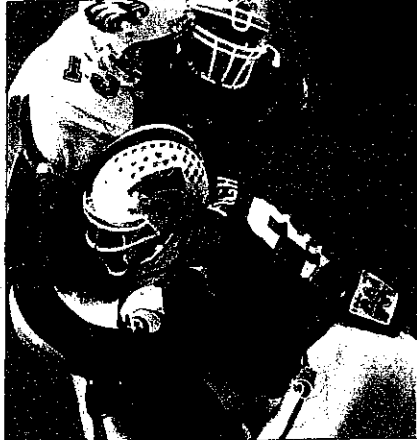
Aaron Pugh knocked down consecutive passes on third and fourth down, and Novi got the ball back with 1:05 left to play.

R.J. Gordon ripped off a 17-yard run on first down, and the Wildcats ran out the clock before

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

Those are two good football teams that played a hard, physical football game," Maltese said. "When you play with good teams, the team that makes the fewest mistakes, wins. I think we made a few more mistakes than they did."

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Wildcat Aaron Pugh gets some help from a teammate stopping a Lakeland running back.

'Cats look to claw 'Dogs

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

After weeks of playing the hunter, Novi falls into the roll of the hunted.

The Wildcats, fresh off beating previously undefeated Howell and Lakeland in back-to-back weeks, have their KVC destiny in their own hands.

Last Friday's win creates a log jam atop the KVC standings with Novi, Howell, Lakeland, Brighton and South Lyon all tied at 3-1 in the league.

"Friday nights in the KVC, this is what you get," Novi head coach Tab Kellepourey said about his team. "It's going to come down to a heated battle with your opponent."

"I hope that it comes down to the last couple of minutes of the game and we have a chance to do something."

Novi has been finding ways to win and coming through in the fourth quarter all year. Even the loss to Milford saw a furious comeback fall just short. Since then, the Wildcats have gone to Howell and picked up a win and beat Lakeland with a fourth-quarter field goal.

The Bulldogs are the next team standing in the way of the

Wildcats' title hopes.

Brighton got its best win of the season last week, knocking off Milford 17-14. The Bulldogs only league blemish came in a 6-0 shutout at South Lyon. The Bulldogs also knocked off Harland 21-15 and lost to Rockford in the season opener 26-6.

None of the teams the Bulldogs have beaten own a record above .500, but their losses have come against two 4-1 teams.

Brighton should put the ball in the air again this year. They have run a spread offense.

Defensive lineman Tyler Hoover had his best game of the year last week. He was in on 15 tackles (13 solo), recorded a pair of sacks and recovered a fumble.

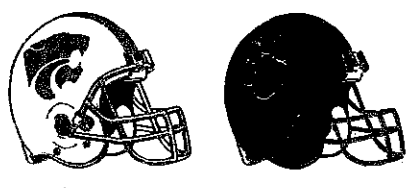
Hoover and the rest of the defenses will need another big game if the Wildcats want to stay atop KVC hill.

"I really believe that our players at 7 p.m. at night, are going to be ready to play football," Kellepourey said. "Our kids like competition and they like intensity. We'll be ready to go this Friday night."

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Friday's game

Who: Novi (4-1, 3-1) vs. Brighton (3-2, 3-1)
Where: Brighton
When: 7 p.m.



Amanda Bynes



Those are two good football teams that played a hard, physical football game," Maltese said. "When you play with good teams, the team that makes the fewest mistakes, wins. I think we made a few more mistakes than they did."

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Eyes on the ball!
Mani Mahadevan returns a volley during a mid-September match.

Novi freshmen, JV top Eagles

Submitted to the Novi News

The Novi Wildcats IV team improved their record to 4-1 by defeating previously undefeated Lakeland 35-28. While Lakeland had the lead four different times in the game, Novi would not be denied. Lakeland started the scoring 7-0, but Novi came right back with a 25-yard kickoff return by Chris Slack. Ricky Enright had a 15-yard run, Adam Paul had a 12-yard run, and Slack hit Brandon Rydzewski on a 30-yard flea flicker and touchdown for the second time this season to tie the game 7-7.

Lakeland came right back with another scoring drive to make it 14-7. Novi answered with a 40-yard run by Jimmy Pitcher. Enright hit Jeremy Mins for a 15-yard reception that was a third and long conversion for a first down. Pitcher finished the drive with a 10-yard run and a 4-yard touch down to tie the game 14-14. Lakeland returned the ensuing kick-off for a touchdown to go up 21-14. Novi answered again with a 15-yard run by Enright and a 43-yard touchdown pass to Rydzewski to tie the game 21-21. Lakeland scored on every drive in the first half to make it 28-21. Novi opened up the offense in the second half. Tommy Szymanski ran for 12 yards. Enright connected with Rydzewski for two passes, one for 15 yards and the second a 30-yard touchdown pass to tie the game once again 28-28.

On the next series, Novi stopped Lakeland for the first time in the game. Jamil Bargo and Brett Jewell had tackles for no gain. John Smith playing

defensive end blocked a pass. Finally, Brandon Rydzewski came up with a timely interception.

Novi went to work on the first of two long drives to finish off Lakeland. Novi's offensive line started making holes off the left side with blocking from John Fields, TJ Karasz, Ryan Margrave, Jeremy Mins, Alex Engelstrom, and Ryan Jok. Ricky Enright ran for 9 and 10 yards, Szymanski ran for 9 yards. Enright had another 8-yard carry. Jimmy Pitcher finished off the drive with a 4-yard run to make it 35-28 in favor of Novi.

Novi would not relinquish the lead the rest of the night. Lakeland would mount a strong effort to tie the game, but the Novi defense would not allow Lakeland to score. Justin Hopson made a strong open field tackle early in the drive. Ryan Jok and Tim Kois stuffed several running plays. Jimmy Gorney played a strong outside corner and Jon Hansi added some tough play inside. The defensive line stood strong when it got to first and goal for Lakeland. The Novi defense stopped them three times against the run and an incomplete pass ended the drive on Novi's 2-yard line. Novi then started a 94-yard march down the field taking up valuable time and looking hungry to put the game away with another score. The offensive line made a hole for Adam Paul to scamper 25 yards. Enright hit Szymanski for an 8-yard pass and a first down. Paul and Pitcher added several other runs for big gains during the drive that ended with the clock expiring and Novi sitting first and goal on the Lakeland 4-

yard line.

Freshmen pounce on Eagles

Kristen Eniga set the standard with an early score, his first of three touchdowns for the day. In later first quarter play, Eniga delivered a first down on an impressive 40-yard sprint, followed quickly by Matt Reid's push for a near touchdown. In another heartbreaking moment, Lakeland intercepted in the end zone to prevent a Zach Mohr/Nolan Valleau pass from connecting, which would have surely put a second score on the board.

The Wildcats made up for these setbacks in the second quarter, with Dakota Buddie opening in the QB slot. Buddie connected with Brady Sheldon and Alex Wilson on several smooth plays, working steadily to position the team for scoring. With five minutes remaining in the half, Eniga took advantage of the set ups by driving through the middle for a TD and new score of 12-0. One of Dakota Buddie's long passes was intercepted by a Lakeland defender. The route he took through Novi territory brought him too close to Buddie, who promptly tackled his own interceptor. In other play, Alan Mercer sacked the Lakeland QB in the backfield, and Jon Robinson was again alert to an opportunity to make good on a pass interception.

Mohr opened the second half with a 40-yard run for a first down, and then finished the job in the next play. Mohr wore his way through the Lakeland defense for a touchdown, bringing the score to 18-0. Key tackles by David Sparling and Michael Kruse

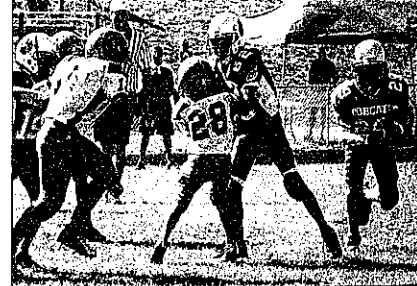
stopped Lakeland's drives for yardage. Later, Tyson McGriff burst through the line and made a bid for a touchdown, but was stopped by the Eagles. Eniga then took control of the ball and delivered his third touchdown of the day, pushing Novi's shut out score to 24-0.

Still not satisfied, the Wildcats kept the pressure on. Another touchdown was delivered in a Mohr to Reid pass collaboration, with Reid getting the ball over the line for a 36-0 score.

Not content to go away quietly, Lakeland ran a solid quarterback keeper to the outside late in the third quarter, securing a first down. The Eagles took advantage of the momentum, and broke through on the next play, ducking several Novi defenders and putting their first points on the board. The two-point conversion was good, and the quarter ended at 30-8.

In the final quarter, Gage Liberati took over the QB spot for Novi. David Plante, Ryan Cordis, Greg Bullis and Brian Bush all made some great stops as Lakeland tried to put one more touchdown on the board. Their quarterback was sacked twice, once by Cordes and Matt Boggett, and again by David Sparling. A Lakeland pass play was complete for a 20-yard gain, but the receiver was on the ground instantly, thanks to Michael Kruse. Plante made a solid scoring attempt, but was denied by the Eagles.

In final play, David Sparling broke through the Lakeland line for a 50-yard sprint and dramatic touchdown. The extra point was good on Valleau's kick, closing the game out with Novi up 37-8.



The Novi Bobcats work a rushing play against the Northville Stallions.

Bobcats freshmen, JV top Stallions

Submitted to the Novi News

The Novi Bobcats JV Football team played the Stallions this past Sunday under clear blue skies in Northville.

Novi dominated both sides of the ball enroute to 31-8 victory. The win improved the Bobcats' record to 3-1, putting them into a three-way tie for second place in the WJFL standings. Novi's total of 73 points scored thus far in the season is a league high.

Novi, starting on offense, needed just one minute to move the ball 70 yards in three plays. Keith Bryant had a long run for 38 yards to the 10, then Phil Rakhe (2 carries, 32 yards) converted with his fourth TD of this year's campaign. On defense Jonathan Bain stood tall and Novi took over on downs. Michael Kinkovich (3 carries, 70 yards) broke to the left for a 58 yard TD. One minute into the second quarter, Kyle Matel rushed 31 yards for yet another Novi score, his second TD of the year. Incredibly, Novi had three touchdowns in their first four possessions.

Novi's offensive juggernaut continued to gather steam in the first half. Jalen Ward (13 carries, 74 yards) broke through several tackles in the middle and sprinted 60 yards for Novi's fourth touchdown of the day. The first half ended with miraculous fumble recovery by Ethan Roy to prevent a Stallion touchdown on the goal line. The Stallions managed a safety and the half-time score was 25-2.

The second half was a defensive struggle on both sides of the ball. Once again Mark Ryan lead the Novi team in tackles. Brett Gubaux and Jacob Lynch recovered fumbles, and Tommy McMaster ably handled the kicking duties. Jack Pinkerton (11 carries, 57 yards) caused havoc on both sides of the ball. QB duties in the game were shared by Billy Uke and Addison Longman. In the fourth quarter Novi's offense scored on a 37 yard run by Austin Racicot.

Next up, Novi hosts the 2-2 Wallied Lake Braves. Homecoming festivities begin with a pep rally at 6 p.m. Friday near the Novi Middle School. The JV game kicks off 1 p.m. Saturday at Novi Middle School. Tail-gating starts at 11 a.m.

Freshmen Bobcats thump Stallions

The Freshman Bobcats improved their record to 4-0 on Saturday by beating the Northville Stallions 25-6. The Bobcats' first year Freshmen took the field on offense and mounted an impressive touchdown drive starting with a 20-yard kickoff return and 10-yard sweep by Connor Moore. Strong blocking lead by Jack Gubaux, Ryan Welsch, Alex Dietrich, Anthony D'Amabile, Travis Davis, Philip Calhoun, Mitchell McSweeney, Ryan Conlin and David DeVona opened up Michael Uke to run two QB keep plays for 10 yards with the second ending in a touchdown to give the Bobcats a 6-0 lead. On the third possession of the game, Joey Shumir took a handoff up the middle, broke a solid tackle and completed a 7-yard run for a touchdown. Ryan Moore scored the PAT increasing the lead to 13-0. On the Bobcats next possession, Andy Mizerowski broke free for 16 yards and then punched the ball into the end zone on a 4-yard run for a 19-0 lead. The Bobcats' final score came in the second half with Colton Neisius breaking free for a 57-yard touchdown. Neisius led all running backs with five carries for 98 yards and a touchdown. The Bobcats' generated 188 yards of total offense, and 13 plays had the opportunity to carry the football.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Bobcats continue to dominate their opponents.

The Bobcats held the Stallions to turn the ball over on the first four possessions, allowed two first downs and 20 total yards of offense in the first half. Although the Stallions scored in the second half, the Bobcats held them to 77 total yards. The Bobcats defense was led by Mitchell Lang with eight tackles, Christian Durham with five, Colton Neisius and Carter Racicot with four each. Bobby Fox had his third interception of the season with a 50-yard return.

The Bobcats will host their Homecoming this Saturday at Novi Middle School at 11 a.m.

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AMC STAR LINE 29 11:00 PM	AMC STAR LINE 30 11:00 PM	AMC STAR LINE 31 11:00 PM	AMC STAR LINE 32 11:00 PM
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Out first, he has to score one point.



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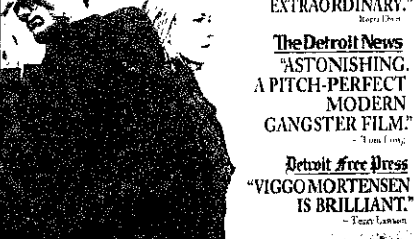
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Golfers beat South Lyon



Wildcat Dana Czekaj, left, points out the lie of the green as teammate Natalie Crick lines up a putt against Lakeland.

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The Novi girls golf team split matches in the past week, losing 176-201 to Brighton on Sept. 18 before the Wildcats turned the tables on South Lyon, winning 192-213 last Thursday.

Average Brighton, Natalie Crick led the Wildcats with a 46. Alex Palmer was next with a 49, followed by Brooke Collins with a 52 and Kelsey Brandemuhl with a 54.

Against South Lyon, Dana Czekaj shot a career-low 42 for medalist Crick and Palmer shot 49, and Brandemuhl fired a 57.

Megan Henry shot a 52 in junior varsity play.

The Wildcats sit at 5-1 in league play, tied for second in the KVC.

Novi Swimming

The Novi girls swim and dive team improved to 6-0, 3-0 with a 108-77 win against Howell last Thursday.

Event winners included Yalda Dastmalchi (200 freestyle), Amber Cather (200 IM), Rebecca Valerie Ziegler (100 back), Rebecca Berman (100 fly), Meredith Cote (100 free), Sarah Berman (500 free) and Yuki Tamura (100 breast). The team of Keri Abel, Hannah Dastmalchi, Yalda Dastmalchi and Dana Dastmalchi won both the 200 free and the 400 free relay.

All Thomas (diving) and Abigail Glenn (500 free) added second-place finishes. Freeing second in the 400 free relay was Stella Chung-Matilyn Duhara-Rebecca Berman-Meredith Cote and second in the medley relay was the team of Ashley Bush-Yuki Tamura-Rebecca Berman-Amalissa Morgan.

Cote's time in the 100 free gave her an additional state cut.

Novi Soccer

The Novi soccer team improves to 8-2-1 with a pair of wins against league foes.

The Wildcats beat Hartland 5-1 Sept. 18.

It was by far our best team effort of the season," Novi head coach Brian O'Leary said. "We responded very well after our disappointing loss to South Lyon."

The scoring started with Matt Masserati knocking home a shot off the goalpost off a feed from Roland Ruzhansky 14 minutes in. Nick Brevins scored the next goal off a throw in from Nate Robinson three minutes later.

After Hartland closed the gap to 2-1, Robinson scored on a breakaway for a 3-1 halftime lead.

Five minutes into the second half, Robinson struck again. The final goal came with Robinson completing the hat trick. He worked a give-and-go with Shaun Rydzewski with 26 minutes to play.

The Wildcats went on to defeat Milford 2-1 last Thursday.

The Mavericks opened the scoring and carried the 1-0 lead into the half.

Jon Bauer tied the score off a



Wildcat Kelsey Brandemuhl putts at Cattails Golf Course.

feed from Miles Reichley eight minutes into the second half. The final goal came with seven minutes remaining. Dan Kilger sent a cross into a crowd in front of the Milford goal that went in off a Maverick player.

Catholic Central Cross Country

The Shamrock cross country team finished second to Northville at their home meet Saturday.

Alex Toloff won the meet in 16:22. Zachary Oleski placed sixth in 17:01. John-Paul

Zebrowski placed 15th in 17:32, and Austin Zebrowski was one second behind for 17th. Scott Hoffman was also part of the pack, finishing in 19th in 17:34.

Northville took the title with 50 points. The Shamrocks were next with 58, well ahead of Dearborn Fordson in third with 100.

Catholic Central Soccer

The Shamrocks (9-2-2, 5-0-1) played three games, going 1-1-1 in recent play.

Alex Toloff won the meet in 16:22. Zachary Oleski placed sixth in 17:01. John-Paul

Zebrowski placed 15th in 17:32, and Austin Zebrowski was one second behind for 17th. Scott Hoffman was also part of the pack, finishing in 19th in 17:34.

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The Shamrocks played to a one-all tie Monday at Divine Child. Both goals came in the first half, with Pelon scoring the Shamrock goal with an assist to Gatt.

The string of games started with a 1-0 loss to Ann Arbor Pioneer on Sept. 15. The only

goal came in the 15th minute of the first half.

Catholic Central came back with a 3-0 win against 1-0-1 at home Sept. 18.

Josh Gatt scored 10 minutes in with an assist to Nick Pelon. Ten minutes later, Joe Bellino scored from 25-yards out with another assist to Pelon. Chris Long tallied the final goal with 10 minutes left in the game off a feed from Evan Malecke.

The Shamrocks played to a one-all tie Monday at Divine Child. Both goals came in the first half, with Pelon scoring the Shamrock goal with an assist to Gatt.

Novi volleyball passes 1st KVC test

Submitted to the News

KVC Volleyball

The only thing that stood between the Novi Wildcats Girls Varsity Volleyball and the KVC Title last year was Lakeland. This year, Novi passed their first test, handing the undefeated Eagles their first loss, three games to one last Thursday at Novi.

The Wildcats started the week on Tuesday with straight game victories over a determined Howell, 25-14, 25-16 and 25-13. Kim Hildreth had 17 assists and five kills and Stephanie Cripps added nine kills, three aces and four blocks.

On Thursday, the Wildcats took to the court with revenge on their minds; but it wasn't going to be easy.

Lakeland worked the first game to a 20-19 lead before the Wildcats scratched their way back to take the lead 24-22. Lakeland tied it at 24 before Novi grabbed the lead 2 points to secure a 26-24 victory.

After a series of Lakeland point streaks in Game 2, Novi found themselves down 10 points, 22-12. The Wildcats still fought hard, pulling within 24-20, before eventually falling, 25-20.

Novi returned the favor in Game 3 with a 25-16 win, putting the pressure on Lakeland to stay alive in Game 4. Novi jumped to an early 5-point advantage, 14-9 and matched that lead again 20-15, but

Lakeland wasn't through. The Eagles worked the game to a 21-21 tie, and then the two powerhouses traded points until once again the score was tied at 25. Novi took the next point and then Sophomore Julia Thomas delivered the game and match with a left side spike. Stephanie Cripps had 18 kills and four blocks. Hayley Miller had 29 digs and Paige Jener had another outstanding performance featuring 10 kills.

"The girls faced some tough competition at home this week and I was proud of the job they did," said Novi Coach Julie Fissette. "They had to contend with another undefeated league team and had to get past Howell, who has a tough and determined group of players."

"My girls continue to push, work hard and play as a team. I'm proud of them and feel that as the season progresses we will only get better together."

Novi's record is 10-1-1.

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Shamrocks host Eaglets in Sunday's Boys Bowl

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Things just continue to get harder for the Shamrocks as the schedule rolls on.

After losing to Brother Rice and De La Salle in back-to-back weeks, Orchard Lake St. Mary's rolls into Shamrock territory, fresh off a 40-21 thumping of Brother Rice.

"It's disappointing, playing so hard and losing the way that we have the last two weeks," Shamrock head coach Tom Mach said. "But at the same time, we're playing against two top-tier programs. You have to feel good that you're right there."

"Really, you're doing the right things, but you have to finish the game. When you don't do it twice in a row, you've got to keep slugging away and keep believing."

Sunday's contest is also the Boys Bowl, the Shamrock's version of homecoming.

"Boys Bowl" plays football for Catholic Central, remembers the Boys Bowl that he played in," Mach said. "Bringing St. Mary's in at this time may be a good thing for us."

"We should be fired up and ready to go after them."

Two-game slide

After starting 3-0, the Shamrocks (3-2, 0-2) have played two strong games against good teams, but have come up just short against Brother Rice and De La Salle. Mach knows it's important to stop the losing streak and get a win during this murderous stretch of the schedule.

"You've got to try to win a couple of these games," Mach said. "It's disappointing, but the kids will bounce back. They know they still have a great shot for Catholic League and the playoffs."

Who: Catholic Central (3-2, 0-2) vs. Orchard Lake St. Mary's (4-0, 2-0)

Where: Catholic Central

When: 1 p.m. Sunday

Shamrocks

continued from front

about O'Shell. "Their speed got us in the end."

The Shamrocks had to answer to stay alive but it wasn't meant to be, and Catholic Central falls for the second straight week after starting 3-0.

"I felt we played a very good football game against them," Mach said. "We were in very good position to win the football game, but again, we let it get away."

O'Shell led all runners with 116 yards on 35 carries.

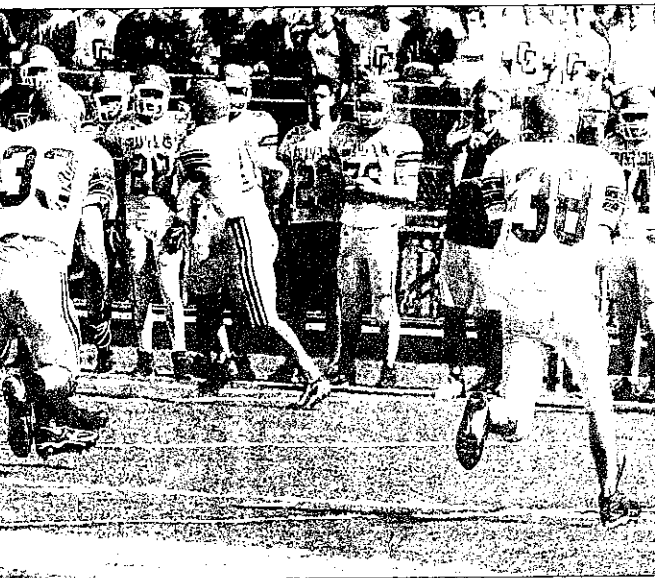
Joe Kinville led the Shamrocks with 57 yards on 15 carries. Capatina tallied 53 yards on 13 carries.

Mike Martin led the Shamrock defense with 12 tackles (five solo), one more than Chris Fischer with 11 (two solo). Mel Farr picked off a pass and was in on three tackles.

Jeff Theisen can be reached at jtheisen@gannett.com or at (248) 349-1708, ext. 104.



Shamrock defender Jack Daykin heads to where the ball is going.



Catholic Central running back Anthony Capatina (38) rolls right for a trick-pass to Scott Kovanda (heading up the sideline).

The Eaglets (4-0, 2-0) trailed 14-13 to Brother Rice, but they ripped off the final 27 points to blowout Rice.

Big plays were the difference in the ballgame. Three Eaglet touchdowns came on long plays in the third quarter: a 28-yard run, a 72-yard punt return and a 42-yard run.

"St. Mary's is loaded with speed, and that's what did Rice in," Mach said. "They've got a good quarterback, good (running) back and good receivers. They

have very, very good speed."

"They've got some guys that are real gamebreakers, and they've got more than a couple."

The Eaglets have been scoring points in droves. They racked up a 43-14 win against Divine Child and last week's 40-21 victory. They are averaging 36.25 points a game, while allowing just 13.75.

Catholic Central is averaging 30 points a week, but the average is skewed by the 49-0 and 56-0 wins. The Shamrocks have scored seven and 14 points in the last

two weeks.

Mach was pleased with how his team competed with De La Salle, leading at halftime and taking the Pilots into overtime. He hopes the offense can help the defense.

"Somehow we have to contain them and control the ball and score and keep it away from them as much as possible," Mach said.

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Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vmitchell@gannett.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, September 27, 2007
www.novineews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832



Weeknight Waffle-wiches

Makes 6 Belgian-style waffle sandwiches
12 slices turkey bacon, cooked, divided
6 slices thinly-sliced deli ham (about 4 ounces), divided
1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk, divided
1 package (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese, divided
3 cups plus 1 teaspoon all-purpose baking mix (such as Bisquick), divided
3/4 cup water
1 large egg, beaten
3 tablespoons prepared yellow mustard

COMBINE 3/4 cup evaporated milk, 1 1/2 cups cheese and 1 teaspoon baking mix in small saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until cheese is melted and sauce has slightly thickened to a creamy consistency. Remove from heat, cover.

WHISK together remaining evaporated milk, water, remaining 1/2 cup cheese, egg and mustard in medium bowl. Stir remaining 3 cups baking mix into milk mixture until well blended.

PREHEAT Belgian waffle maker* according to manufacturer's directions. Pour about 1/4 cup batter onto waffle maker. (This amount is enough for a square or round waffle maker.) Cook according to manufacturer's directions. Repeat with remaining batter. Keep cooked waffles warm in oven.

TO ASSEMBLE: SPREAD 2 tablespoons cheese sauce evenly over one side of 6 waffle squares. Place 2 slices of bacon and 1 slice of ham on cheese sauce on each. Top with second waffle to make Waffle-wiches.

*Can also be cooked in standard waffle maker (makes about 18 standard-sized waffles).

Southwestern Scramble

Makes 4 servings
8 large eggs, well-beaten
2/3 cup (5 fluid-ounce can) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Mexican blend cheese, divided
2 tablespoons diced green chiles
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
Nonstick cooking spray
2 medium or 3 small corn tortillas, cut into thin strips
Mild salsa, chopped avocado and/or sliced green onions (optional)
1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained (optional)

COMBINE eggs, evaporated milk, 1/2 cup cheese, chiles and black pepper in medium bowl.

SPRAY large skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Place tortilla strips in skillet and heat over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until strips are lightly browned.

POUR egg mixture into skillet. Cook, stirring frequently, until eggs are cooked. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Top with salsa, avocado and/or green onions, if desired. Serve along with beans.

Breakfast for Dinner

Enjoy It With Your Family Tonight



French Toast with Creamy Maple Syrup

Makes 6 servings

Creamy Maple Syrup
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
1/3 cup maple-flavored pancake syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons butter

French Toast

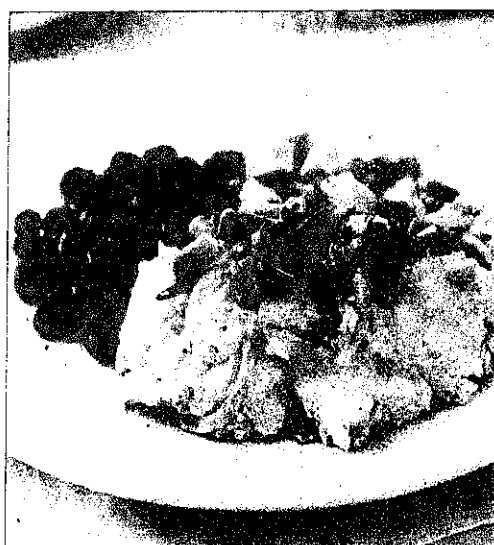
6 large eggs
1 cup Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3 tablespoons butter, divided
12 slices whole-wheat or white bread, divided

For Creamy Maple Syrup: COMBINE sugar, 1/2 cup evaporated milk, syrup and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract in small saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat; stir in 2 tablespoons butter. Makes 1 1/2 cups.

For French Toast: WHISK together eggs, remaining 1 cup evaporated milk, vanilla extract and cinnamon in medium bowl. MELT 1 tablespoon butter in large, nonstick skillet over medium heat. Dip 4 slices bread in milk mixture and then place in skillet. Cook about 2 minutes per side or until golden. Repeat 2 more times with 2 tablespoons butter and remaining bread. Keep warm in oven. Serve with warm Creamy Maple Syrup. Refrigerate any leftover syrup for another use.

Tip: One (12-fluid-ounce) can of Carnation Evaporated Milk is all the evaporated milk you will need for this recipe.

Find these recipes and more in Carnation's new 40-page recipe booklet, "Family Favorites: A Collection of Delicious Dinners." For your free copy and to enter to win a "Family Fun" trip to San Diego, visit VeryBestBaking.com by December 31, 2007. Each email link up to five chances to win.



Suppertime Sausage Bake

Makes 10 to 12 servings

1 pound hot bulk pork sausage, cooked, drained and crumbled
2 cans (12 fluid ounces each) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
8 large eggs, beaten
2 cups (8-ounce package) shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 cup chopped red pepper
2 green onions (green parts only), sliced
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
8 cups 1/2-inch cubed Italian or French bread (about 9 slices)

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Grease 13 x 9-inch baking dish.

COMBINE milk, eggs, sausage, cheese, red pepper, green onions, onion powder and garlic powder in large bowl. Add bread cubes, stirring gently to moisten bread. Pour mixture into baking dish.

BAKE for 45 minutes or until set. Serve warm.



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Photos by JOHN R. HALL

Keith Paul, owner of HandyPro Handyman Services of Plymouth, has been serving the community for 11 years.

Don't fear — HandyPro is here! Clean, honest, capable handyman services available

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

Having a professional bring new life to home improvement projects, fix-it jobs, and the occasional honey-do tasks is the main appeal of HandyPro Handyman Services, Inc. of Plymouth. Owner Keith Paul has made customer satisfaction his number one priority in his 11 years since first opening his business with his wife Debra in 1996.

He said he was inspired to start the business by a contractor who ripped off Debra's grandmother. Keith knew that homeowners deserved to have work done on their homes by honest, experienced and reputable people.

That's why it is important to gain the trust and respect from every customer. After all, HandyPro contractors are invited guests into people's homes and they take that responsibility very seriously.

"Homeowners are letting us into their homes — it is a very personal thing," Keith said. "We take it as an honor that people would trust us in their homes."

For that and many other reasons, HandyPro employees are carefully screened and go through an intense training session, including hands-on and classroom training. Keith and the other franchisees HandyPro Handyman Services in Minneapolis, Honolulu, and Dallas are licensed builders and everyone who works for them are approved by the states they work in. All franchisees are fully bonded and insured.

The Plymouth location currently employs 13 technicians who specialize in all types of home improvement projects such as drywall repairs, painting, caulking and gutter repairs. Keith said that his company's specialty "is completing a homeowner's 'to-do' list."

The success of HandyPro Handyman Services is shown in the recent sales figures. July 2007 was the company's best month in their history. That's an interesting statistic considering the slumping Michigan economy. But Keith said that a down economy is often good for his business.

"People are not selling their homes in this economy — they are upgrading them," he said. "They are putting in new doors, shelving, shutters, shower tiling, etc."

But if customers plan to sell their homes, HandyPro Handyman Services is also the place to turn to. Keith said that cosmetic fixes to a home are "the best thing you can do. Painting is usually the best return on your investment. New fixtures, ceiling fans, updated lighting, and even ensuring that every door opens and closes can be very important, too. In Michigan you have to make your house stand out."

He added that his same customers will call two to three times each year with requests for something as simple as hanging a picture to something as complex as remodeling a kitchen.

HANDYPRO HANDYMAN SERVICES, INC.
Phone (800) 942-6394
Web site www.handypro.com

Tips from HandyPro Handyman Services

Before choosing any company to work in your home:

1. Verify insurance
2. Get all estimates in writing
3. Check references
4. Find out how long the company has been in business
5. Verify license

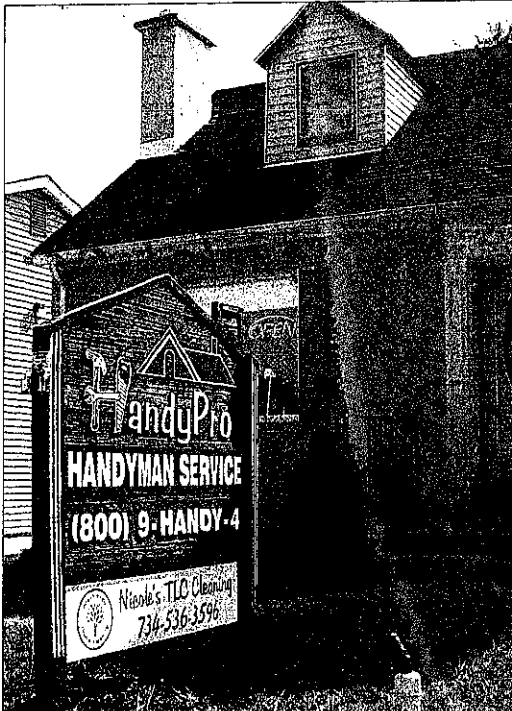
HandyPro Handyman Services' customers are given a one-year guarantee with every job, too.

With the fall season approaching, Keith's technicians will be busy repairing gutters, making them ready for the winter months, as well as caulking windows and painting. He hopes the phones keep ringing because he wants to keep his crew busy.

"If we take good care of our staff, they, in turn, take good care of our customers," he added. "And we have a great staff."

HandyPro Handyman Services is located at 995 S. Main St., Plymouth. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Nights and weekend hours are available upon request.

For more information call (800) 942-6394 or visit www.handypro.com.



HandyPro Handyman Services of Plymouth has been a familiar sight to passersby at its Main Street location.

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Life Insurance: it's for the people who Live

By Lisa Beyer
State Farm Agent

Life insurance is a practical way to protect your family's financial hopes and dreams.

The death of a family member can be devastating to survivors both emotionally and financially. Life insurance can provide cash to help with your family's immediate and long-term needs.

- Immediate needs include funeral expenses, unpaid medical bills and taxes.
- Long-term needs include care for a disabled child or elderly parent expenses and, in general, the chance for members of your family to continue to live the life to which they are accustomed.

Life insurance is not for the people who die, but for people who live. It's wise to explore options while you are still healthy; health problems can make life insurance expensive or unavailable. Three forms of life insurance are most common today:

Term life insurance. This is temporary life insurance for a specific time period (one, five, 10 or more years). It can provide short-term coverage on a limited budget. Term insurance, however, costs more to buy as you get older.

There are two common types of term life insurance:

- **Level term:** the amount of protection remains the same during the coverage period.
- **Decreasing term:** the amount of protection gradually declines during the coverage period.

Whole life insurance. Premiums are generally level with cash value growth throughout the life of the policy. Cash values can be borrowed (with interest charged) during the insured person's lifetime to help meet temporary or emergency needs.

Funds borrowed reduce the death benefit and cash surrender value.

Universal life insurance. This offers many traditional advantages of whole life insurance (such as protection for life), but also offers flexibility.

Coverage amounts and premium payments are flexible to help meet changing needs during an insured person's lifetime (subject to certain conditions).

When you buy life insurance, you buy a promise of protection against financial loss caused by death. The promise is only as good as the company that stands behind it. In today's marketplace, life insurance buyers should be concerned about:

- The financial strength of the insurer.
- Customer service.

Contact your State Farm agent for more specific information about life insurance.

Lisa Beyer
State Farm
43027 Seven Mile Rd.
Northville, MI 48167
248.347.4480
lisa@lisabeyer.com



ADVERTISEMENT

Local attorneys bring innovation and a new way to divorce to metro Detroit

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

Local divorce trial lawyers Susan Elkouri and Symantha Heath are two of a handful of Michigan attorneys specializing exclusively in divorce and family law and are using innovative and new settlement techniques to change the way people divorce.

"For years we have been frustrated with the fact that the traditional divorce model, more often than not, created enemies out of once civil families," said attorney Susan Elkouri. Anyone who has participated in a divorce trial quickly agrees that it is not what they want.

Unfortunately many clients arrive in the office of their lawyer with gladiator expectations and are often greeted with the same attitudes by their attorneys.

"Our clients were consistently coming in to our offices telling us they didn't want that. We felt that it didn't have to be that way," Elkouri said.

Because of their frustration with the typical take-no-prisoners divorce experience, Elkouri and Heath are two of a small group of attorneys who are changing the landscape of their client's divorce experience by offering their clients the option of a Collaborative Divorce.

Elkouri, Heath, and other certified Collaborative-Divorce attorneys can now use new settlement techniques to help change the dynamic of their clients' divorce by deliberately creating an atmosphere for settlement.

"We've found that there is a way to resolve a divorce and achieve settlement without the usual animosities through a Collaborative Divorce," Elkouri said.

Symantha Heath explained that "a Collaborative Divorce is an alternative dispute resolution process that allows a couple to reach their own settlement based on their priorities and avoids going to court and having a judge make decisions about their life.

Collaboration is the opposite of a "you lose I win" scenario. Instead, the focus is on working together to create a win-win situation.

The couple is guided by a professional team, which, in addition to the party's attorneys, may include counselors, accountants, child specialists and financial planners, all of whom are required to sign confidentiality agreements. The goal for all these professionals is to come to a settlement everyone can live with. The process is started when the parties, through their attorneys, sign a commitment to reach a settlement without going to court.

A series of meetings are scheduled with both parties. During these meetings the couple, guided by their experts, works together to reach a fair settlement.

Elkouri and Heath do not recommend Collaborative Divorce in every case. The types of cases that benefit most from this approach tend to be high conflict or high asset cases, involve clients who highly prioritize privacy, who wish to maintain control over their cases resolution, and those who want to reduce the animosity that surrounds the typical divorce.

"We've always prided ourselves in bringing creative solutions to difficult divorce cases and believe that matrimonial law issues should be addressed privately and in a dignified manner whenever possible," said Elkouri. "Collaborative law reflects our philosophy."

Susan Elkouri and Symantha Heath believe in offering their clients an alternative to the typically unpleasant divorce experience — one that allows their clients more control over the cost and outcome of their case.

Elkouri and Heath have been practicing law in the state of Michigan since 1994. Their practice concentrates exclusively in the areas of divorce and family



Submitted Photos

Attorneys Elkouri and Heath are certified Collaborative-Divorce attorneys who use new settlement techniques to help change the dynamic of their clients' divorce by deliberately creating an atmosphere for settlement.

LAW OFFICES OF ELKOURI AND HEATH

Crystal Glen Office Center
39555 Orchard Hill Place, Novi
Northwest of Eight Mile and
Haggerty Road

Phone
(248) 344-9700

Web site
www.elkouritheath.com

law, where they serve the metropolitan Detroit areas of Oakland, Wayne, Livingston, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. They have developed a reputation not only as specialists in the area of family law, but also developed an expertise in attending to the individual needs of their clients.

They believe that every client deserves personal attention, the best representation possible, and guidance on the options available for resolving their divorce. Based upon this philosophy, they have developed a successful family law practice. They also recognize the emotional trauma and pain individuals suffer when going through a divorce. As a result, they offer clients the time and the experience necessary to guide them through one of the most difficult experiences in their life.

In every case, an attempt is made to bring about a quick, civilized, fair and inexpensive resolution. However, if that cannot be accomplished, Elkouri and Heath offer aggressive professional representation at the trial court level in addition to their collaborative practice.

Elkouri and Heath are available for a confidential consultation by appointment. Regular office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call (248) 344-9700.

The law office of Elkouri and Heath is located in the Crystal Glen Office Center, 39555 Orchard Hill Place, Novi, just northwest of the Eight Mile/Haggerty Road intersection.

For information on the collaborative process, visit www.elkouritheath.com.



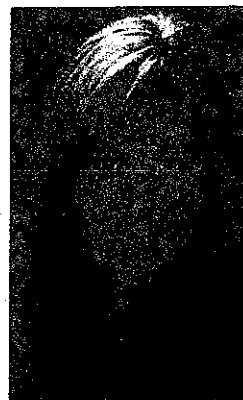
SUSAN ELKOURI

Susan Elkouri is a resident of Canton, divorce trial lawyer, certified Collaborative Divorce Law practitioner, and has practiced divorce law for over 12 years.

She earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1994 and is licensed to practice in Michigan and U.S. Federal Courts.

She is a member of the Michigan State Bar Association, Oakland County Bar Association, Wayne County Family Law Bar Association, active participant in the Michigan Family Law Certification program, and past University of Detroit Law School Moot Court Judge.

Ms. Elkouri is also a frequent lecturer at Schoolcraft College on the subject of divorce law.



SYMANTHA HEATH

Symantha Heath is a resident of Northville, a divorce trial lawyer, certified Collaborative Divorce Law practitioner, and has practiced divorce law for over 12 years.

She earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1993 and is licensed to practice in Michigan and U.S. Federal Courts.

Ms. Heath serves on the Wayne County Family Law Bar Association Executive Board, is an active participant in the Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education Family Law Certification program, and past University of Detroit Law School Moot Court Judge.

She is also a member of the Michigan State Bar Association, Oakland County Bar Association, and Wayne County Family Law Bar Association.

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