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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2007 WWW.NOVINEWS.COM VOLUME 52 #27 50 CENTS

Shots fired

■ Novi's first shooting in more than two years

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Gunshots were heard earlier this week, the first City of Novi shooting in more than two years.

A Novi man, 49, called police Monday morning, stating gunshots were fired into his home at 6:35 a.m.

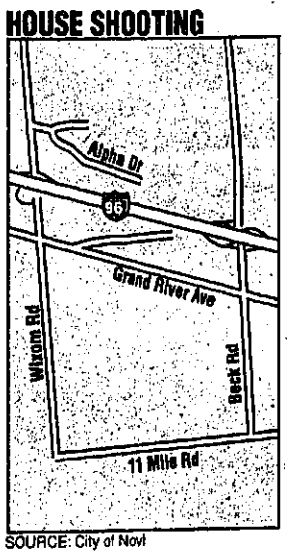
The resident lives in the 48000 block of Grand River Avenue, between Beck and Wixom roads.

According to the man, a female acquaintance, 52, was responsible for firing six or seven shots into his house.

No one was injured and police did not release the man's name.

Chief David Molloy of the Novi Police Department said, prior to the shooting, the female suspect allegedly pulled into the driveway and blew the horn a few times before getting out of the vehicle.

HOUSE SHOOTING



SOURCE: City of Novi

Evidence of shell casings confirmed at least six shots were fired and the Novi Police Department worked with the Oakland County forensics unit to retrieve some of the bullet fragments out of the home, officials said.

continued on 4A

Safe shopping

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

American Plastic Toys president John Gessert checks out his company's best seller: Homestyle Kitchen. The play kitchen set retails for $38 at Wal-Mart.

Local toy makers ease anxiety

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Holiday shopping is officially underway.

This year is a little different for parents however, as millions of Chinese-made toys have been recalled for having lead paint and other problems. A resulting weary gaze has been cast over many toy products, since more than 70 percent of children's toys are made in China.

Of the remaining toys, 15-20 percent are made in the U.S., according to John Gessert, president of American Plastic Toys in Walled Lake.

"I think, inherently, toys are safe. I think people should be careful, look at the product and the country of origin," Gessert said as he stands next to boxes of toys piled high and ready to be shipped out for holiday shoppers. "Color, plastic and labels all have lead potential. We eliminated it all together."

American Plastic Toys produces, stores and ships the majority of the products carrying its name from its Walled Lake headquarters. The company, which has smaller branches in Olive Branch, Miss. and Rose City, buys labels and boxes from other U.S. companies and ships in only electronic sound and lighted parts from China to be installed as a smaller component on a larger product, such as their Homestyle Kitchen, which makes stove sounds.

"As a precaution, we run safety tests just about every year. Last year's rail car may be

continued on 4A

Making a run at U.S. congress

■ Former Novi manager states candidacy

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Without Edward Kriewall, Novi may be a very different city. Now, he hopes to make changes at the federal level by becoming one of Michigan's representatives in Washington, D.C.

Kriewall, 66, is one of two Democratic nominees running for the 11th Congressional District seat U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia) currently holds.

Ed Kriewall

"I just don't like the way things are going at the federal level. The president has taken us down some bad roads, particularly Iraq. I want to make a difference and make changes," Kriewall said, who still lives in Novi. "My career has been in gov-

continued on 4A

11-29-07

Novi Choralaires ring in the holiday season with song

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

For years, the Novi Choralaires' holiday shows have been a tradition for many local residents.

This weekend, the production, titled "Spirit of the Season," will include three shows, two in Novi and one in Farmington.

"It's a nice way to get their season off to the right start," said Johanna Bermann, vice president of the Novi Choralaires.

The group performs multiple shows throughout the year, but the Christmas-themed shows seem to be the best received.

"Christmas is popular. We do it in the churches for three consecutive evenings," Bermann said.

She said the group tries to sing songs people know.

"At Christmas time, we sing carols. For Valentines, we sing romance songs related to the occasion. The spring show, we do popular music – show tunes and composers like George Gershwin and Irvin Berlin," Bermann said.

Last winter, the group sang 20 songs that included "Blue By You," "What a Wonderful World," "My Girl" and "Irish Eyes Are a Smiling."

"The shows are typically about an hour and a half," Bermann said.

The Novi Choralaires is made up of about 50 members, more than half of which are from Novi, Bermann said.

Bermann joined the Choralaires in 1989, four years after she moved to Novi, when she saw an ad in a Novi Parks and Recreation brochure.

"I was new to the area from New Jersey. I was always involved with music – instrumentally and vocally," she said. "I made a lot of good friends and had some good times."

Bermann said the group looks forward to the Christmas and spring shows the most, but it is also available for group and organization events.

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

Submitted photo

The Novi Choralaires prepare for annual holiday concert.

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NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

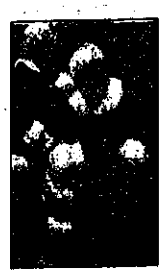
• FRIDAY

Be at **MainStreet** from **6-9 p.m.** to start the season off with the **Ringing in the Holidays** event, presented in partnership by the **Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department** and **St. John Providence Park Hospital**. The event will feature country **musician Sarah Lenore**, marshmallow **roasting**, **hockey** skill challenge by Novi Ice Arena, **food** samples and local **entertainment**. The **Jingle Bell Jog** fun run for 5-10 year olds will begin at 6:15 p.m. At 7 p.m., the **Electric Light Parade** will take place and feature dozens of entries with more than **1,000 lights**. Contact Derek Smith at (248) 347-0474 or dsmith@cityofnovi.org for more information.

• SATURDAY

From **10 a.m.-6 p.m.**, **Emagine Novi**, 44425 W. 12 Mile Road, will be filled with gamers playing in a **Halo 3 tournament** for a prize worth up to **$250**. The 64-team tournament guarantees each player at least two 10 minute games in the **double-elimination** tournament. Entry fee is $15. For more information, call (248) 468-2990.

• SUNDAY



The **Michigan Christmas Show and Marketplace** will be at **Rock Financial Showplace**, 46100 Grand River Ave., from **11 a.m.-5 p.m.** Attendees can **shop** for holiday decorations, have their **photo** taken with **Santa** Claus and Mrs. Claus and compete in a **raffle** for decorative trees. Admission is $10, $8 at Meijer's customer service desk and free for children 12 and younger. Parking costs $5. Other show times include 10 a.m.-5p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Call (800) 849-0248.

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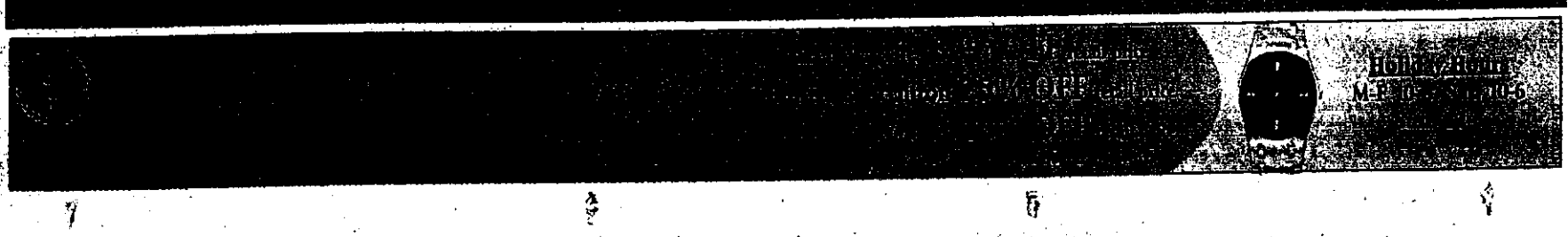
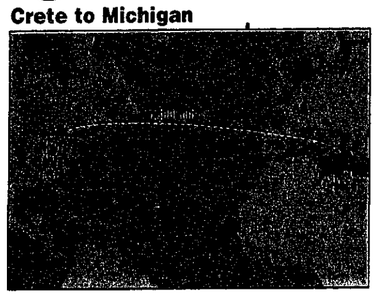


Building a future from the ground up

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Crete to Michigan



Maybe it was the humble building he was raised in that led Bill Damas to a lucrative career in building construction and management.

Damas, 59, is a Novi resident who, at one time, lived in a 12-by-14-foot clay house in Crete, an island in the Mediterranean Sea off the southern edge of Greece.

Born in the city of Veni only a few years after the Nazi invasion of 1941, Damas lived in poverty much of his life. His home had a dirt floor, no water or electricity, and the only heat came from the fireplace.

"There were a lot of difficulties for me. I remember there were times we had nothing to eat. My father had eight children and no job. He couldn't afford to send me to junior high or high school," Damas said. "Greece was a beautiful country, but my lifestyle there was bad."

Damas, whose birth and legal name is Vasilios Damavoletes, left Veni with a sixth grade education to work on the boats when he was 17. When he was 19, he set foot in the United States for the first time, on Feb. 4, 1968, traveling from New York to Pittsburgh, where he worked with his cousin for four months.

In June 1968, he boarded a bus with less than $30 in his pocket and came to Detroit in search of another job he heard might be available.

A lasting impression

Damas' first night in Detroit was spent working downtown in Greektown (a then-primarily Greek downtown business district) after finding a common bond with a restaurant owner earlier that day. He worked there for six months before moving to Toledo briefly, working as a painter until March 1969 when he returned to Michigan to work at his old job.

"I came here as an illegal alien. I moved to Toledo because I had told a few guys I was an illegal alien and didn't want immigration to find out," Damas said.

While working in Detroit, Damas did some painting work on the side and, finding it paid better than working at the restaurant, quit his job in early 1970 and began Dependable Painting Service, which grew to become one of the largest painting companies in the state from 1975-76.

Finding the efforts of running such a company too demanding on personnel and wanting to leave business opportunities for his children, Damas began to phase out of the painting industry in 1980 and started up Dial Construction Company.

"I wanted to do more," Damas explained. "I bought 24 acres at Nine Mile and Beck roads and built a house there."

Damas still lives in the house with his wife, Eleni, who he married in January 1971 after meeting her brother at a YMCA in Highland Park three years before. Her family is also from Crete.

The 24 acres has since been subdivided for five other homes, four he sold and one where his daughter Maria, 35, now lives.

The management company Damas owns has transformed into DS Properties. Maria and Damas' three sons, Kyriakos (Charlie), 36; Emanuel, 31, and Kostantinos (Dino), 22, are all involved in the family construction business, which has produced more than a dozen structures in Novi, Wixom, Brighton and Canton.

One of the most well-known businesses is Acropolis Restaurant in Wixom, which Emanuel operates.

Each project through DS Properties is run under an individual corporation, such as KVG, named after the founders, the Damas brothers – Konstantinos, Vasilios and George – who came over from Crete.

Choices

When Bill Damas was living in Canton for six years, he attended classes at Canton High School to add to the sixth-grade education he had learned in Crete. With a full-time job and a family on the way, he was hard-pressed for time.

"I had to make a choice. Lose my job and family or get an education," Damas said. "It worked out."

He chose to take the education and experience he already had and work hard without further schooling so his children could afford a higher education. After working 12-hour days, six days a week for years, two of Damas' children have college degrees and the other two are working on them. All have a place in the company or a place waiting for them upon graduation.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi resident Bill Damas reflects on how far he has come from a childhood of poverty, to his success as a developer.

With the success of his company turning into a family business his children will be able to carry on for years to come, Damas doesn't expect anything to change as long as he's around.

"I'm going to be here until I die. I want to work with my kids and help them," he said.

Damas said he is so used to his heavy workload, that he couldn't imagine ever retiring. He spends his free time playing prefa, a five-person card game, at the Cretan Club or walking through the mountains when he visits Crete, where he built a 5,000-square-foot home on the land his father left him.

He spends about six weeks a year in Crete, where he helped fund and rebuild St. Theodori, a church destroyed by the Turks during World War I.

Damas' love for his life in Novi will lead him to selling his home in Crete, he said, explaining how the 10-hour flight takes nearly 24 hours between stepping out of his home in Novi and into the one in Veni.

"I'm a Michigander. I live here, I die here," he said.

Damas' story and those of other local Greeks will be featured in the "Our Greek Story" documentary on WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) at 7 p.m. on Dec. 8.

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

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Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.P.I.
DON'T IGNORE ECZEMA SYMPTOMS
It is easy to dismiss eczema as a minor skin irritation, but if it is left untreated, it can cause problems. Some children will scratch the itchy skin so much that it will bleed, and wounds can then become infected. The infected skin can take on a leathery appearance, which may become permanent. To treat eczema, avoid triggers such as wool, dry air, and sweating as much as possible. Rub ointment on affected skin, and avoid lotions since they often contain alcohol that can further dry the skin. Also avoid perfumed soaps, bubble baths, and powders. Soaking in the tub with some over-the-counter dry skin products can help relieve the itch of eczema.
The most common spots for children to get eczema are the elbow joints, behind the knees, and behind the ears.
Many people suffer from eczema. It may be a minor discomfort or it can be a flare-up, and may require medical attention. If you suspect you have eczema, you need to see a specialist. Call the ALLERGY & ASTHMA CENTER today to arrange for a consultation with Dr. Rowe. We diagnose and treat patients of all ages. Same day, early morning, evening and Saturday appointments are available. For further information, call (248) 473-6400. Our office is located at 24120 Meadowbrook Road, Ste. 301, Novi. New patients are welcome. "The Caring Allergist Who Gets Results."
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MY NEIGHBORS

Thursday, November 29, 2007
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Novi resident wins car from Tom Holzer Ford

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

It was all in the cards, or rather the raffle tickets, for Novi resident Mark Adams at the Novi Parks Foundation's James Bond-themed gala Nov. 9.

In support of the parks foundation, Adams purchased 20 raffle tickets and won two of the three raffle prizes.

"I'm a supporter (of the Novi Parks Foundation). It's a real good cause," he said. "I was doing the charity thing, and I guess I got real lucky."

Adams first won the Red Wings suite package for the Dec. 9 game against the Carolina Hurricanes.

Immediately after, Adams won the grand prize of a two-year pre-paid lease on a 2008 Ford Escape donated by Tom Holzer Ford in Farmington Hills.

"I won the Red Wings tickets and everyone cheered. Back-to-back I won the car and it was dead silent," Adams said.

Connie Holzer, owner of Tom Holzer Ford recalls Adams' reaction when his ticket was selected.

"He was like a Great Dane," she said. "I saw him gaining momentum as he was coming my way and he picked me up and twirled me around. He was so happy.

"When people are like that, it makes you feel good – it is just so much nicer to give."

In memory of Tom Holzer, Connie's husband who passed away two years ago, the Holzer's donated the car in exchange for naming rights to one of the baseball diamonds at Ella Mae Power Park.

To acquire the naming rights for three years, the Holzer's formed an agreement with the parks foundation to donate a vehicle with a two-year pre-paid lease for three years.

"A famous line my dad would always say 'it's all about the kids,'" said Buzzy Holzer, Connie and Tom's youngest son who runs the business. "It's always been a focal point of the business to be involved with the community, because, without them, we wouldn't be here."

Being involved with the Novi community isn't only important for the business, but for Connie, who recently became a Novi resident.

"I lived 25 years in Bloomfield Hills and I'm loving Novi tremendously," she said. "I admire what they're doing with Novi. They're keeping it people-friendly and we are a people dealership."

Although Adams, 50, wasn't in need of a new car, he plans to park his Lincoln LS for the winter and cruise around in the fully-loaded dark blue Ford Escape.

"I was very pleasantly surprised," Adams said. "Its a great bonus. It's got satellite radio, cruise, a six-CD player and a sunroof."

Novi News staff writer Kelly Murad can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext 103 or kmurad@gannett.com.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Mark Adams chats with Connie Holzer as he prepares to accept the keys to a 2008 Ford Escape after he won a free two-year lease on the vehicle.

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LET'S TALK Jewelry WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN GEMOLOGIST
WHAT'S IN STORE
If we were to gaze into our crystal ball to divine upcoming jewelry trends, we would see that the "less-is-more" philosophy predominates. This is not to say that by "less" we mean "smaller." Instead, wearing one large, bold, gem-intensive piece is preferable to wearing many smaller, less-conspicuous pieces. Along these lines, think of a single diamond-studded cuff bracelet or a one-of-a-kind cocktail ring- for instance. In fact, cocktail rings that are large enough to catch eyes and spark conversation have been part of this growing trend for some time. The more unique the gemstone, the bigger the impact it will create. Even men can get in on the trend by incorporating large, colored diamonds into bracelets, cuff links, and rings.
Whenever you have decisions to make about jewelry, whether about current styles or choosing stones and settings, turn to WEINSTEIN JEWELERS OF NOVI your trusted friend in the jewelry industry. Our instinct for what our customers want, our knowledge of what's new and trendy, our commitment to complete customer service, and our eye for quality make us perfectly suited to bring you together with the jewelry that will make you smile with pleasure. Last-minute shopping? See our selection of exquisitely fine jewelry at 41990 Grand River Ave., because that's all we carry. PH: 248-347-0303. We are licensed by the city of Novi to offer loans on jewelry.
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■ Local toy makers ease anxiety

continued from front

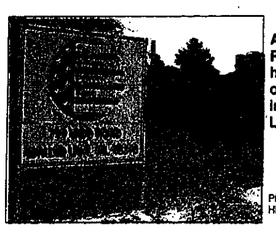
different than this year's rail car," Gessert said as he showed off a seven-piece beach pail set. "There's no small parts (after assembly). We're very careful that there's no choking hazard. Our products are tested by outside testing in U.S. labs."

With in-factory tests and testing by other companies, Gessert said the 150 different products American Plastic Toys make are safe and as lead-free as one can get. The colors are applied to the toys differently than in China, helping to eliminate the threat of lead-based paint.

"It's coated, not hand-painted like the Orient does," he said. "We're the last injection-molded toy company."

The color coating is mixed into the liquid plastic mold at a 2-3 percent rate as the mold is drawn in from railroad cars that run alongside the building.

With just 10-20 employees on the factory floor at a time, the entire company boasts less than 300 employees, but produces up to 12,000 Homestyle Kitchens a week and up to 60,000 sand pails a week, among more than a hundred other products produced at large volumes.



American Plastic Toys headquarters on Ladd Road in Walled Lake.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

"We ship to North America and part of South America," Gessert said as conveyor belts leading outside to a semi-truck are loaded with toys. "We retail for as little as a dollar (sand pails at Dollar General) and less than $40 ($38 Homestyle Kitchens at Wal-Mart)."

American Plastic Toys' products retail almost everywhere and include stores such as Wal-Mart, Kmart, JCPenney, Toys "R" Us, CVS, Walgreens, Dollar General, Meijer and Target.com.

Other toy companies with products in the same stores as American Plastic Toys include Amloid, Step 2 and Little Tikes, which have similarly been forced to analyze the safety measures of their products after so many Chinese products have been recalled.

Toy recalls are listed at www.cpsc.gov, the Web site for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

"We try to provide the same play value," Gessert said of his company's competition, noting a similar version of the $38 kitchen set could cost $80-100 from another company.

Although toys are already shipped out to stores for the holidays and the final waves are on their way, Gessert and American Plastic Toys won't have much of a break as they gear up for summer toy production of beach items, wagons and outdoor gear.

"Our busy time for Christmas is September through early November," he said. "We have a pretty complete spring and summer line. Chairs are a spring item. We're converting over to spring."

■ Former Novi manager states candidacy

continued from front

ernment. I'm very fiscally conservative and I believe a lot of spending cuts can be made."

With 30 years of experience serving the City of Novi, primarily as city manager from 1974-2000, Kriewall is largely responsible for the growth Novi has seen over the past quarter century.

"The population was under 10,000 when I started. When I left, it was nearly 50,000," he said. "I coordinated the development of Twelve Oaks Mall and headed the committee for the Novi Expo Center. I ran a pretty efficient operation on limited resources. I know how to run a government."

The Novi resident also played a strong role in forming the Storm and Drain Management program, Michigan 50s Festival and numerous bonds and millages.

A look back

Kriewall earned a bachelor's in political science and public administration from the Detroit Institute of Technology before receiving a master's degree in public administration from Nova Southeast University in Fort Launderdale, Fla. through a University of Michigan extension program.

With his education and hands-on experience, Kriewall hopes to win the Democratic bid from Thomas Spencer, 55, of Waterford, a Methodist minister and 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force who also seeks McCotter's seat.

Born and raised in Bay City, Kriewall has lived in Novi since 1969. He is the single father of two adult daughters and spent the past 13 years taking care of his 95-year-old father until he passed away last year.

"I've been thinking about it for several years," Kriewall said of running for office, noting his business and personal life have both freed up more time lately.

Since his city-management retirement, he has run Kriewall Consulting out of his home. He is currently building a condominium complex in Tecumseh and is in the final stages of completing a commercial building in Green Oak Township, north of Whitmore Lake.

"I'm licensed in real estate and a builder in Michigan. I've been doing some real estate development," Kriewall said. "I'm done with that now, so I can turn my attention to this."

■ Novi's first shooting in more than two years

continued from front

As of press time, the police department was tracking down the suspect, who is allegedly a Wixom resident.

There are no other witnesses at this time.

Novi News staff writer Kelly Murad can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext 103 or kmurad@gannett.com.

Police Tip Line

If anyone has information regarding the Monday, Nov. 26 6:35 a.m. Novi house shooting contact Detective Sgt. Matt Conquest of the Novi Police Department at (248) 347-0530. Police believe the shooting suspect is a 52-year-old Wixom woman.

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Victoria Mitchell, editor
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Thursday, November 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
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Suspect steals the spirit of Thanksgiving

Police Briefs

A 4-foot blow-up, decorative turkey was stolen from Creek Crossing subdivision between 4 p.m. Nov. 11 and 11 a.m. Nov. 12, reports said.

The turkey was brown, red and yellow with "Creek Crossing sub" written on the bottom of it, reports said.

According to the report, the stolen turkey was one of two blow-up turkeys at the entrance of the subdivision on Junction between Creek Crossing and Trestle.

The remaining turkey was not damaged.

Suspected drunk driver runs three vehicles off the road

A man was arrested for operating while intoxicated just after midnight Nov. 10, reports said.

An officer was patrolling southbound on Haggerty Road, north of 10 Mile Road and observed a vehicle disobey the red light at 10 Mile and Haggerty roads, reports said.

According to the report, the officer followed the vehicle with his lights and sirens activated.

While following the driver, the officer observed the man driving westbound in the eastbound lanes, causing three vehicles to run off the road, reports said.

When the man came to a stop on 10 Mile, just west of Willowbrook Drive, the officer immediately smelled an odor of intoxicants coming from inside the vehicle, reports said.

According to the report, the driver told the officer he drank three beers and he wasn't drunk, just tired.

The officer administered a preliminary breath test, which calculated the man's blood alcohol concentration to be .15 percent.

Apple iMac stolen 30 minutes after purchase

An Apple iMac was reported stolen from a vehicle parked outside Circuit City in West Oaks Plaza Nov. 8, reports said.

According to the report, the man purchased a 20-inch Apple iMac at 8:45 p.m. from the Apple Store in Twelve Oaks Mall, and then drove across the street to Circuit City to purchase some accessories.

When the man returned to his burgundy GMC van at 9:15 p.m., the iMac, which was in the passenger area of the vehicle, was missing, reports said.

According to the victim, his vehicle was parked near the front entrance of Circuit City and the doors were unlocked. He did not notice any suspicious people following him from the mall or Circuit City.

There was no damage to the vehicle, reports said.

Suspect steals from woman attending church

A woman had items stolen from her vehicle while attending mass at Holy Family Catholic Church on Meadowbrook Road Nov. 18, reports said.

The woman parked her white Ford Explorer in the middle of the lot at noon and when she left at 1:30 p.m., she noticed items missing from her purse and wallet, reports said.

According to the woman, her purse was on the floor of the vehicle and she thought the doors were locked, but was not 100 percent sure.

There were no signs of forced entry.

Handicap sticker suspected stolen

According to a recent police report, items were stolen from a vehicle parked on Wainwright Street between Novi Road and Martin Avenue between 4 p.m. Nov. 7 and 9:30 a.m. Nov. 8.

The black 2007 Ford Five Hundred was parked in the driveway of a residence when a handicap sticker and black iPod Nano with earphones and gray and pink case were stolen, reports said.

According to the report, the iPod, case and earphones total $220.

There was no evidence of forced entry and the driver admitted to often leaving her doors unlocked, reports said.

Employee's car broken into while working at Red Lobster

According to a recent police report, the vehicle of a Red Lobster employee was broken into while she was at work, Nov. 9.

The employee went to work at noon and, when she returned to her silver Toyota Corolla at 11 p.m., the driver's side rear window had been pulled out, reports said.

Her black Guess purse, which contained $70, four credit cards and her social security card wer stolen, along with her black leather coat and Dell laptop, reports said.

The purse was worth $98, the coat $250 and the computer $1,200.

According to the victim, the window was already broken, but held together due to the window tinting.

No other cars were broken into in the area, reports said.

Oakland County Sheriff injured in car chase

According to a press release, police were led on a 30-minute vehicle pursuit through the City of Wixom, Commerce Township and Milford Township at 1:37 a.m. Nov. 15.

During the pursuit, an Oakland County Sheriff's deputy was severely injured in an accident on West Maple Road, reports said.

Reports stated the deputy was in stable condition at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

The driver, Kahyon Layon Benjamin, was charged with second degree fleeing and eluding police, receiving and concealing a stolen motor vehicle, driving while license suspended and using an improper registration plate, reports said.

Benjamin was arraigned at the 52-1 District Court and is being held at the Oakland County Jail on a $10,000 bond, according to a

Kid Rock responds to lawsuit with Novi resident

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Kid Rock is trying to get Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Shalina Kumar to reconsider the Nov. 14 dismissal of his case against Novi resident Kelly Ann Kozlowski.

In a letter to the Oakland Press last week, Rock, legally 36-year-old Robert Ritchie of Clarkston, said he had offered seven alternative court deposition dates in October and November that would not conflict with his duties as a musician and entertainer.

"I'm ready to be deposed in this case, pay for the cost of the deposition and make a donation to one of the charities I've mentioned above in an amount to be determined by the judge if this case goes forward.

"This case should be decided on the facts, not on a scheduling issue where the other side didn't even argue they were hurt by the brief delay," Ritchie's letter said. "I've never asked for special treatment for being Kid Rock, but I've always expected not to be punished, or passed judgment on, especially by a court of law, for being him either. All I'm asking for is a fair shake – my full day in court."

Kid Rock had filed suit against Kozlowski, 28, on March 19 for false light invasion of property, defamation and trespassing after Kozlowski lost an earlier suit against him where she accused Kid Rock of getting angry and pushing her down into a snow bank at his Clarkston studio on March 8.

Kozlowski counter sued Kid Rock after he filed charges March 19, claiming she suffered emotional distress from the public court ordeal.

Since Kid Rock failed to show up in court at the set deposition date, Kozlowski was granted a victory in her lawsuit against him.

"The judge dismissed his case for defamation and granted us a default, meaning we don't have to prove the allegations of assault, battery and emotional distress," said Drew Norton, Kozlowski's attorney.

If Kid Rock's plea for a "redo" on the deposition hearing is not answered, Kozlowski could be awarded more than $25,000.

"The amount is in excess of $25,000. We're way, way above that number," Norton said. "We will have a trial in early February in order to decide the amount of damages, barring a court of appeals or the judge's reconsideration on that, we're going right to how much he can pay my client."

Read Kid Rock's full letter to the judge at bands.goanddomichigan.com/reviews/review.asp?ID=1031.

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

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BMKKT

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: 7 p.m. Dec. 6 inside the Educational Services Building on Taft Road

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

MY EDUCATION

REPORT CARD A+

Thursday, November 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

An evening with Thomas Jefferson

Residents of all ages are invited to attend "An Evening with Thomas Jefferson," Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m., at the Novi Middle School Auditorium. The event features an actor portraying Colonial Williamsburg Jefferson, speaking about his life as one of our country's founding fathers. You may contact Gary Hurst at Novi Meadows for further information, (248) 449-1250.

Class NOTES

Novi Woods donated candy

The fourth-grade classes of Mrs. Donberger/Mrs. Dell and Mrs. Chandler along with their second-grade "Buddies" in Mr. Kenrick and Mrs. Karbousky's class, assembled 300 candy bags with some of the donated Halloween candy. These special treats were delivered to the Novi Senior Center. A special thank you to all of the students and teachers who participated in the project. Some of the candy will also be used by the second grade Brownie Troop #5710 to fill homemade stockings that will be delivered to The Manor of Novi Nursing Home and the remainder will be donated to a local charity.

Parenting fair

The 16th annual Walled Lake Schools Parenting Education Fair will be 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8 at Walled Lake Northern High School. Parents and community members from throughout the Detroit area are invited to attend. This year's keynote speaker will be the renowned parenting expert and best-selling author, Jim Fay. For more information, visit the Web site at www.walledlake.k12.mi.us/pr/parentingfair.

Hamilton Named MSPRA Communicator of the Year

Walled Lake Schools Superintendent William A. Hamilton, Ed.D., received the MSPRA Outstanding Superintendent Communicator Award recently at the Michigan Schools Public Relations Association conference in East Lansing.

Hamilton noted that he has had some wise mentors including Dr. James Geisler, former 18-year Walled Lake Schools superintendent, and administrators he has worked with who gave him sage communication advice.

Pipkin named dean of students, Geisler Middle School

Kyle Pipkin, currently a nine-year physical education teacher and two-year building athletic coordinator (BAC) at Walled Lake Central High School was named Dean of Students at Geisler Middle School. He began his new role last Monday.

Pipkin joins the Geisler administrative team of Jacobson and Yolanda Bloodsaw, assistant principal.

Pipkin participated in the Aspiring Principals' Academy that WLCS offers. He has his master's in administration and bachelor's of science in physical education and industrial technology, both from Central Michigan University.

"Tuition Expedition 2008" offers potential scholarship

Foundation for Excellence-Walled Lake Schools launched "Tuition Expedition 2008," a 50/50 raffle for post secondary education funds. The winner also has the option of choosing a 40 percent cash option instead of the scholarship.

Tickets will be limited to the first 1,000 purchasers. Funds will be paid (in the form of scholarship funds) directly to any U. S. "eligible educational institution" as defined by the IRS. The winner has up to 20 years to assign and split the funds among up to four students, but once disbursement has begun, it must be used within four years, or the winner may choose cash equal to 40 percent of total ticket proceeds paid over four years (less 25 percent federal income tax withholding.)

Last year's winner, Terri Mazur, Wixom Elementary second-grade teacher, won $28,700 in scholarship money in the Tuition Expedition drawing at the Parenting Education Fair, March 10, 2007.

As part of Tuition Expedition 2007, a "Raffle within the Raffle" was used to promote ticket sales. Favorite Walled Lake schools, clubs or programs that were mentioned at the time of ticket purchase were entered into the "Raffle within the Raffle." For every five ticket sales that a school, club or program was named, a chance was entered into the bonus raffle with the first prize of $2,870 going to Walled Lake Central High School's Marching Band program.

Tuition Expedition 2008 will again promote the "Raffle within the Raffle."

Tickets are first-come, first-served, in order of checks or payments received. VISA and MasterCard are also accepted. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold and cost $100 each. Ticket purchasers must be U.S. residents and at least 18 years of age.

For a full set of rules, visit www.walledlake.k12.mi.us. Information may also be obtained by calling the Tuition Expedition hotline at (248) 956-2069.

Drawing from the pool of numbered tickets to determine the winner will be held at 2:15 p.m. at the conclusion of the Walled Lake Schools Parenting Fair on March 8, 2008, at Walled Lake Northern High School, 6000 Bogie Lake Road, Commerce Township. Winner need not be present to win.

Submitted photo

Outstanding Job!

Novi High School senior Steve Bumgarner was selected as the Outstanding Co-op/Work Experience Student for the month of October 2007. Bumgarner works as a porter/detailer at Tom Holzer Ford.

Walled Lake Holiday Snow Ball Dance

Walled Lake Community Education and Sports Around Town are pleased to announce the first Snow Ball Dance, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 at Walled Lake Northern High School, 6000 Bogie Lake Road, Commerce Township.

The evening will include dancing, desserts and a photographer. Formal dress attire is recommended. The cost is $15 for adults ages 18 and older; $12 for children ages 6-17; and free to children five and under.

A $40 family discount is available for up to five people, any combination. Valet parking will be available for $2.

For a registration form, log on to www.walledlake.k12.mi.us/pdfs/HolidaySnowBall.pdf.

Registration deadline is Dec. 7. For more information contact the Walled Lake Community Education Center at (248) 956-5000.

Walled Lake High School performances

Walled Lake Consolidated Schools' performing arts departments are proud to announce these upcoming performances.

• Walled Lake Central High School, 1600 Oakely Park Road, presents "West Side Story" 7:30 p.m. tonight, Friday, Nov. 30; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2. Admission is $14 for adults and $12 for senior citizens and students. All seats are reserved. Tickets can be ordered online at www.wlcperformingarts.org or by calling (248) 360-8156.

Sally Ride Science invites kids to enter competition

Sally Ride Science™ is giving girls and boys in grades five through eight the chance to step out of their classrooms and experience engineering hands on by creating their dream toy or game for the sixth annual TOYchallenge™.

The mission of this 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 2007-08 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 TOYchallenge information is available at http://www.TOYchallenge.com. All submissions will be judged on originality, creativity, engineering, feasibility, design process description, team participation and clarity of communication.

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

Poinsettias, wreaths, roping

Oakland Schools Technical Center, SW Campus is having their 36th annual Winter Holiday Season Sale. Orders will be taken Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. until Nov. 30. Poinsettias, wreaths, grave blankets, cedar roping and holiday cactus are available.

Oakland Schools Technical Center is located at 1000 Beck Road, Wixom. For details call (248) 668-5673.

Two incidents spur November expulsions

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Two Novi High School students were expelled this month for unrelated incidents after years without any district expulsions.

Novi Community School District Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Bob Schram said the first incident occurred Oct. 10 following an after-school bus altercation involving two fighting high school students that ended in an attack of a bus driver near the Novi Middle School parking lot.

"The bus driver tried to break up the altercation between the two students and the one girl who was the aggressor kicked the bus driver and bit him in the hand. It didn't break the skin or anything," Schram said. "It was an assault under state law and we expelled the student per the provisions in the state law."

The incident involved an 11th-grade girl who attacked a 12th-grade girl. The junior who started the fight and attacked the bus driver was expelled Nov. 8.

The second incident occurred at the varsity football game against Livonia Churchill on Nov. 26, when one high school student was caught selling marijuana to another student.

"He was expelled for distributing a controlled substance," Schram said.

A 10th-grade male was caught selling the marijuana to an 11th-grade male.

The buyer received a 10-day suspension for possession, while the seller was expelled Nov. 15.

Schram said a building administrator may hand out up to a 10-day suspension, but the superintendent of human resources must handle anything larger.

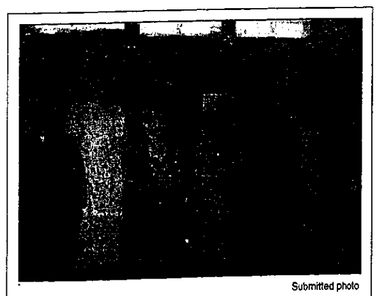
He said each incident needs an investigation and consideration of the offense and circumstances before deciding a student's punishment.

Schram said a very serious fight or a second or third drug offense might merit suspensions upward to 50-60 days.

He also noted that, beyond a reasonable suspension length, the Board of Education might issue an expulsion.

"Only a board can expel in Michigan," Schram said. "An assault on an employee is mandatory expulsion."

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



Submitted photo

Festival of Lights

Students from the Novi-Northville Montessori School celebrate Diwali earlier this month. Diwali is a five-day Hindu festival occurring on the 15th day of Kartika. Diwali means "rows of lighted lamps" and the celebration is often referred to as the Festival of Lights.

Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update

by Dennis Engerer, P.T.

GETTING A LEG UP ON MENISCECTOMY

Tears of the meniscus (knee cartilage) are usually treated with a (partial) meniscectomy, which is surgical removal of the torn piece of cartilage. This procedure serves to prevent permanent damage to the knee, alleviate discomfort, and improve function of the joint. One potential downside to the procedure is that people who undergo meniscectomy have been known to experience long-term reduced knee function. According to a recent study by Swedish researchers, this is due to decreased strength of the quadriceps (thigh muscle). This finding was based on comparisons of muscle strength and functional performance of the legs of middle-aged patients after their meniscectomies. It should be noted, however, that physical therapy and continued exercise can help restore quadriceps strength to normal.

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

MY CITY COUNCIL

Novi preparing for 'silver tsunami'

■ Results from senior survey revealed

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

The results from the 2007 National Research Center senior survey were revealed at Novi's city council meeting Monday.

Dr. Thomas Miller, president of the Colorado-based research center, presented council with the findings from the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults.

In an effort to prepare for the aging population, also known as "silver tsunami," the City of Novi contracted the research center to conduct an assessment of the strengths and needs of its older residents.

"It's not enough to be aware of the demographics, but it's critical we prepare for the demographics," said Councilwoman Kathy Crawford.

Results concluded 32 percent of respondents feel there is a lack of information provided on services offered to seniors.

"I think it surprised me that not more people knew about the senior center," said Rachel Zagaroli, senior services manager for the City of Novi. "That means more marketing. Our job is to get that information out there."

According to statistics, more than half of the baby boom generation is age 50 and older, and by 2010, one-third of all Americans will reach age 50.

"We're doing a great job now, but we need to prepare for our younger seniors," Zagaroli said.

Overall, the survey proved Novi's older adults are satisfied with the quality of life in the community.

"A lot of people feel Novi is a good, excellent place to live," Zagaroli said. "It's important for us to have more active programs. Active lifestyles lead to aging in place."

Of the respondents, 93 percent rated Novi as a good to excellent place to live, but only 65 percent rated Novi as a good to excellent place to retire.

According to Miller, although seniors typically prefer to retire within their community, affordable housing and the cost of living can be a significant barrier for adults trying to age in place.

Some alternative solutions for Novi to consider in reducing housing costs for older residents would be developing programs such as real estate tax relief and rent increase exemption, and partnering the local government with developers and builders to provide affordable senior housing projects.

Complete results from the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults will be posted on the city's Web site at www.cityofnovi.org.

Novi News staff writer Kelly Murad can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext 103 or kmurad@gannett.com.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi seniors enjoy a twirl around the dance floor during the monthly fourth Tuesday afternoon dance at the Novi Senior Center.

OBITUARIES

ELINOR ISABEL (JEWELL) HOLLAND

A former longtime resident of Novi, passed November 10, 2007, at age 83, at the West Bloomfield Nursing Center after a long illness. Mother of Patricia Anne Soma (Anthony) of Walled Lake. A Friend and Neighbor who will be missed by her community. Retired from Clarenceville High School where she was Department Chair. Graduate of Ferris, MSU, Oakland University and Loyola. Active in the community serving on many committees and Boards in the City of Novi, including Beautification, Garden Club and SWOCC Cable Access Committee. Formerly hosted several programs on local cable and active in senior activities. Member of Delta Kappa Gamma, AAUW, Eastern Star and Daughters of Scotia. Associated with the Farmington/ Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and Novi Chamber of Commerce. Donations can be made to a charity of your choice or to Gleaners, Novi Library, Madonna University Scholarship Fund, Seedlings Braille Books for Children in Livonia, or Deaf & Hearing Impaired Services in Farmington Hills.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of $3 a line. Pictures may be published for $25.

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

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

*Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

MADD director looking for council support

Richard Rondeau, executive director of Mothers Against Drunk Driving spoke in front of council at Monday's meeting regarding the Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving.

Rondeau, on behalf of MADD, is looking for support in the passage of comprehensive ignition interlock laws, making the device mandatory for convicted drunk drivers.

"If we can't stop drunks from driving, we'll stop the vehicles from letting drunks drive," Rondeau said. "We can eliminate drunk driving."

Rondeau presented council with red MADD ribbons and asked everyone in support of the cause to visit their Web site at www.madd.org and sign the pledge to implement alcohol ignition interlock laws.

Former Councilwoman Lynne Paul recognized

Mayor David Landry presented former Councilwoman Lynne Paul with a vase and expressed thanks for her years of service on Novi's city council.

Paul personally praised each of the council members along with city staff members, Maryanne Cornelius, Tom Schultz, Pam Antil and Clay Pearson.

She closed by thanking everyone for their years of service with her and wishing them all luck in the future.

Council rescinds completion agreement for Provincial Glades

Council unanimously approved to rescind the completion agreement for Provincial Glades RUD and to postpone the matter pending completion of the property transfer.

On Oct. 22, Novi's city council approved a completion agreement with Provincial Glades LLC, which was to be completed within 15 days.

Upon follow-up it was determined Provincial Glades is not in a position to post the additional performance guarantees, therefore they cannot execute the agreement.

Currently, a property transfer is pending between Provincial Glades and Pinnacle Homes.

The transfer of the project is expected to occur in early December.

Pinnacle requested the city extend the execution of the completion agreement until mid-December, but city staff recommended city council rescind the current agreement and upon transfer of ownership execute a new agreement with Pinnacle.

Council approves streets for condominium development

Council unanimously approved consideration of acceptance of Summerlin of Novi streets accepting Summerlin Boulevard, Tiverton Drive, Larkspur Lane, Lindbergh Lane, Cobblestone Drive and Lagoon Drive as public streets.

Summerlin of Novi is a condominium development located east of West Park Drive and south of Pontiac Trail.

These streets add 2,212 feet or .42 miles of roadway to the city's street system.

MEETING NOTEBOOK

First reading approval

Council approved, by a 7-0 vote, the first reading of amendments to the City of Novi zoning ordinance relating to exterior building wall facade materials.

The proposed changes are in response to recent projects the city has reviewed that have either not met the requirements of materials listed in the facade chart or have not met the stated intent and purpose of the ordinance.

Some of the proposed amendments include:

• Requiring proposed buildings to be designed in context with neighboring existing buildings in regard to the percentages of materials used and overall aesthetic quality.

• Green building materials meeting the standards of the LEED checklist would be permitted, provided the proposed facade meets the aesthetic standards of the city.

• Panel brick would be added to the facade chart with 0 percent allowed in Region 1, 50 percent allowed in Region 2 and 75 percent allowed in Region 3.

Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello moved to approve the first reading with a motion to reconsider use of panel brick in any of the regions.

Council Meeting Notes were taken from the Monday, November 26 regular meeting of the Novi City Council. All Council members were present. Next meeting: 7 p.m. Monday, December 3 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Rd.

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QUOTE: "It's always good to be able to come home, and that's where I want to stay." – Arthur P. Ritter

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

Home for the holidays

By Jason Carmel Davis
STAFF WRITER

This year's Thanksgiving service had special meaning for Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi. In addition to celebrating the Pilgrim heritage that is such an integral part of the congregational faith, Meadowbrook gave thanks for the recent installation of its new senior minister, Arthur P. Ritter.

Rev. Ritter was formally installed as Meadowbrook's senior minister on Nov. 11. The service, which was attended by congregational ministers from throughout Michigan and other local clergy, marked only the second time Meadowbrook has installed a senior minister in its 22-year history.

The Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt, now minister emeritus, retired as senior minister in May 2006. The Rev. Edward Willingham served as the church's interim minister until Ritter's selection in April. He officially began his ministry at Meadowbrook on Aug. 20.

Ritter said the service was a special one, as a number of people from various places he's worked at attended the event.

A Michigan native, Ritter spent the last nine years as senior minister of First Congregational Church in Salt Lake City, Utah — the only congregational church in Utah and the first non-Latter-day Saints (Mormon) church in the state. Ritter also served congregational churches in Toulon, Ill., and West Bloomfield.

"Michigan is home for me," Ritter said. "This is a place I plan to stay for a while."

Ritter received his bachelor's degree from Alma College and his master's degree from Central Michigan University. He was ordained in 1985 following graduation from the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies.

Ritter brings to his ministry in Novi considerable experience with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, a national fellowship of approximately 450 congregational churches. Ritter currently serves as chairperson of the Congregational Church Development Division. He previously served as chair of the Church and Pastoral Relations Committee and was former moderator of the Southeast Michigan Association.

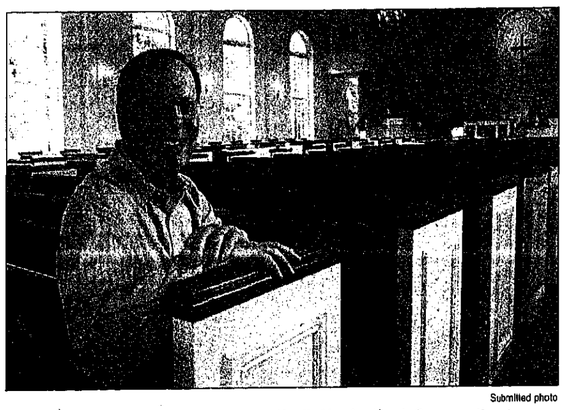
Ritter said he was drawn to Meadowbrook Congregational Church for numerous reasons, including the eclectic mix of members in both ages and backgrounds, the church's renowned music program, its Christian Education program for children and youth, its strong congregational tradition and the stunning architecture of its building.

Ritter said he would like to continue to focus on the church's youth, along with finding ways to make Meadowbrook more inviting and having music selections that appeal to all generations.

Returning to his Michigan roots also allowed Ritter and his wife, Laura, to be closer to their oldest daughter, Maren, who is currently a freshman at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. Younger daughter, Amelia, is an eighth grader in Novi.

"It's always good to be able to come home," Ritter said. "And that's where I want to stay."

Meadowbrook Congregational Church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads in Novi.



Submitted photo

Arthur Ritter is the new senior minister at Novi's Meadowbrook Congregational Church. He comes to Novi after stops in Utah, Illinois and West Bloomfield.

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MY OPINION

Thursday, November 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

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

Editorial - Botched-up taxes ruin state's image

If a tax increase is inevitable, then the state should jack up the income tax back to 4.6 percent rather than continuing to sully the state's reputation with a series of botched-up business taxes.

How did we get to this point? It's helpful to review the sordid story.

After discovering — conveniently, after the election — that the state didn't have enough money, Gov. Jennifer Granholm earlier this year proposed a dead-in-the-water 2-cent sales tax hike, earning her the sobriquet of "2-penny Jenny," but no support, not even from her own party.

When that failed, a seemingly endless stalemate led to the infamous postmidnight solution in which a threatened state shutdown was averted partially with an increase in the state's income tax and partially through a bizarre selection of varied services that would be hit with a new 6 percent sales tax. The outrage over this arbitrary and callous surcharge was so loud that even tone-deaf lawmakers paid attention.

They've since looked for alternatives to the services tax, which was scheduled to take effect Dec. 1. Their solutions are no better.

Most recently, the state Senate approved a bill to replace the extended 6 percent service tax with additional funds from the new Michigan Business Tax. That new tax was put in place in still another backs-against-the-wall scenario after Republican lawmakers killed the Single Business Tax but didn't bother to provide a replacement revenue source.

It's part of a pattern for a legislative body and executive office that are ill-prepared for their jobs. They fail to address difficult issues and then get pushed into a crisis where they either fail to act or act disastrously.

For years, Lansing knew it had to either raise taxes or drastically reform government spending in order to balance the state's fundamentally flawed budget.

Instead, Lansing played games, drained the state's rainy day fund, moved up property tax collections and, most atrociously, took a prepayment on a tobacco lawsuit settlement that will cost taxpayers dearly in the future in lost revenues.

With the Single Business Tax fiasco still fresh, Lansing failed to settle last year's budget deficit; instead, the problem was pushed into this year's budget planning. Again, so-called leaders failed to act responsibly, which led to the mind-boggling midnight session that produced the chaotic service tax that Lansing is now trying to correct.

By failing to take action, Lansing has spending obligations in place that may leave no solution other than a tax hike. That's an opinion shared by even such a robust anti-tax crusader as the state chamber of commerce, which, during the budget negotiations, argued for an income tax increase rather than the nightmare of business taxes.

This isn't just a plea to help business. For one thing, business taxes get passed on to the consumer or come out of labor wages. For another, the tax structures proposed by Lansing will chase business out of the state or discourage them from relocating here.

Michigan's income tax rate was lowered to 4.6 percent in the mid-1980s and stayed there until it dropped to 4.4 percent in 1994. Beginning in 2000, the rate began dropping until it reached its current rate of 3.9 percent. As part of the current budget solution, Lansing has already agreed to raise the rate to 4.35 percent.

If more revenue is the answer, better to continue back up to 4.6 than continue to invent poorly thought out alternatives.

A tax increase should come with the promise of government reform. But the current crew in Lansing has proved that won't happen.

Hey, Novi: What's Your Story?

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

- Are you a working woman who has recently returned to work?
- Are you a Novi resident interested in sharing a story about how your religious faith has carried you through tough times?
- Do you spend more than $100 per week on gasoline?
- Are you a single parent?

E-mail Novi News editor Victoria Mitchell at vemitchell@gannett.com.

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

On Page 6A of the Nov. 15 issue, the story "Experience colonial Virginia and meet Thomas Jefferson" said Thomas Jefferson portrayer Bill Barker was booked to come to Novi on Dec. 4 by Virginia-based Arnett & Associates. Although Arnett & Associates does book some appearances for Barker, his Novi visit was booked directly by his employer at Colonial Williamsburg.

The all ages 7:30 p.m. event will be held at Novi Middle School, 49000 11 Mile Road, on Dec. 4.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Hobble Gobble!

Orchard Hills principal Paul LePlae finishes up a quick hike with some of his students during last week's "Turkey Trot." Students and faculty went outside, walked around and then sat down for juice and a snack.

LETTERS

World AIDS Day

In the quarter century since the first AIDS cases were diagnosed, medical science has made remarkable progress. But we've learned a hard lesson, breakthroughs in laboratories are only half the battle. If treatments never reach patients, lives are lost needlessly. As we mark the 20th annual World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, we need to commit to delivering the best available treatments and prevention services to more, eventually all, patients who need them.

One medical breakthrough with huge life-saving implications is the development of medicines and services that greatly reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. In the absence of any intervention, HIV-positive mothers have a greater than one-in-three chance of passing the virus on to their babies during pregnancy, delivery or through breastfeeding. Science has reduced those odds to 1 in 50 in the United States, Europe and other nations with advanced medical care. As a result, we've dramatically reduced mother-to-child transmission of HIV here.

In the developing world, however, it's a very different story. Ninety percent of HIV-positive mothers and their newborns never get these life-saving medicines.

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is working to change that. With the support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and many private donors, we are working with ministries of health in the countries hardest hit by the pandemic, to prevent transmission of HIV from mother to child and to treat children and families affected by HIV/AIDS. The clinics we support around the world have reached more than three million women with HIV testing, and have provided those women who are found to be positive with medications to block HIV transmission to their newborns as well as ongoing care and treatment.

But much more needs to be done. More than 400,000 children will be infected with HIV this year, mostly from mother-to-child transmission of the virus.

That's why we are asking policy makers to ramp up efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Medical science has taught us how to keep most newborns free of HIV. Now we need to build the infrastructure necessary to deliver life-saving care to everyone who needs it. When we do that, we will stop mother-to-child transmission worldwide, save millions of children and transform the very nature of the battle against AIDS.

Pamela W. Barnes
President and CEO of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, www.pedaids.org.

Politically Frustrated

The prevailing political environments at both state and national levels have so much disturbed me that I've sworn off politics.

The narrow-minded partisanship, the lies and corruption, the meaningless posturing, self-righteousness and hypocrisy, vindictiveness, manipulation and greed cause more bile than progress.

Both parties and pundits are guilty. I disavow allegiance to any party. The blatant partisanship of both parties equally earns the most contempt.

Nevertheless, the letter from a "very educated citizen" has piqued my interest and my curiosity.

Would Mr. Thai let the public know how carefully he had dissected the multifarious statements uttered by his president before he voted for him the first and, especially, the second time?

On numerous occasions your president was vague to the point of incomprehensibility, incoherent to the edge of hilarity and unknowledgeable to the brink of ignorance. (If you doubt the veracity of the preceding statement, simply check the library or Web under "Bushisms.")

Was Mr. Thai so attentive when Bush was seeking the presidency or is he hyper-critical only when a Democrat vacillates on an issue?

What does Thai say about Mitt's and Rudy's firm and unwavering positions on abortion, gay marriages and driver licenses for undocumented aliens? What is Paul Thai's position? Is it carved in stone? Yes or no?

I realize that hunting season has begun, but Mr. is a bit premature in his political sniping. He should at least wait until Hillary's nomination.

Ironically, the more the enemies of Clinton expose themselves the more formidable she appears to me.

In retrospect, it seems my resolve to forego politics is already headed to hell in a hand basket!

Patrick M. Downey
A Somewhat Educated Citizen, Novi

Michael Warren: America is slowly committing suicide

While America's attention is captured by recent celebrity scandals and divisive political wrangling, we are ignoring a quiet threat to our survival. America is slowly committing suicide. Contrary to popular wisdom, the most serious threat to America does not spring from overseas adversaries, but is from within. Let there be no mistake – we may be fighting a hot war against militant Islamic terrorists today, but there is also a cold war raging, right here and right now for the hearts and minds of our citizens – and we are losing.

There is overwhelming evidence of our ignorance and disdain of American history and First Principles. This crisis faces the K-12 system, higher education, the general public, media and political class. Many studies reveal that our K-12 students, college students and the general public lack a basic understanding of our system of free government. Many politicians, media and academics ignore or denigrate our First Principles and history.

Yet, as a free people, we are fools to think that our free society will survive if we are ignorant of, or attack, what preserves our liberties. As a republic, the people are the ultimate guardians of their own freedom — and we are abdicating that responsibility. And these are self-inflicted wounds — the very definition of suicide.

We are a nation that was founded on the self-evident truths that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; and that governments are instituted by the people to protect those unalienable rights. These First Principles are the basis of our freedom: The rule of law, unalienable rights, equality, the Social Compact and limited government.

About Michael Warren

Michael Warren is an Oakland County Circuit Court judge and a former member of the Michigan State Board of Education. He is the author of "America's Survival Guide: How to Stop America's Impending Suicide by Reclaiming Our First Principles and History."

As our founding history reveals, these First Principles were the underlying cause of the American Revolution and became the foundation for the Federal Constitution. These First Principles also formed the basis of the struggle for racial and gender equality.

America needs to undertake several strong and critical reforms to face this crisis, including education, legal, media, holiday, nonprofit and political reform. These innovative approaches include adopting an American Freedom Curriculum, in which American history and civics are taught every year in K-12. We need to reform our teacher preparation institutions, so that all American teachers are well versed in our history and First Principles. The bar exam should be revised to ensure that all lawyers are also grounded. Holidays should be refocused on the solemn occasions for which they were ordained – not as empty excuses for furniture sales. The media should pay less attention to stars gone awry and focus on how our history and First Principles inform current events and politics. By implementing these reforms, we can stop ourselves from drinking our collective hemlock.

Please join me in fighting to preserve the greatest beacon of liberty the world has ever known.

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

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

COMMENTARY

Thursday, November 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Tom Watkins: Michigan – what we once had is now gone

Change, it is something we are going to hear more and more about. Change is coming at us at warped speed and it is not going to slow down anytime soon. What we once had is now – gone!

My 20-year-old daughter, Katherine made me think about change when she asked the other day, "Dad, is it true that when you were growing up, you had to be home to get a phone call?" Yes, we did I sheepishly admitted and had to stretch the cord to hide in the closet to have privacy to talk to your friends. We had to go outside to play with our friends, we could not e-mail, I-mail or text them.

"Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change."
–Confucius

The world is rapidly changing. Michigan and its citizens are going to have to change or the world will pass us by. Gone are the days when you could drop out of school and get a high-paying job at Ford, Chrysler, GM or one of the major suppliers and enter the American Dream. Gone are the days where the U.S. automobile manufactures had a near monopoly. Gone, are more than 400,000 good paying manufacturing jobs since the beginning of this century and the prediction that we will lose another 50,000 next year. Gone are the days when India, Russia and China had closed economies, today they have the combined force of 3 billion new capitalists and consumers seeking their slice of the good life. Gone are the days when learning took place only between the two pages of your text book, four walls of your school or the six hour school day. Today, with technology learning is a more and more a virtual experience that can take place any time, any place 24/7.

Country singer, Montgomery Gentry said it best with these lyrics:

"Gone like a freight-train, gone like yesterday
Gone like a soldier in the civil war, bang bang
Gone like a '59 Cadillac
Like all the good things that ain't never coming back She's gone!"

Everyone should read John Kotter's, a leadership and change guru and award winning author of: "Leading Change" and "Heart of Change" books: "Our Iceberg Is Melting: Changing and Succeeding Under Any Conditions." This easy to read fable is about a penguin colony ability to recognize their world is changing and the steps they take to adapt and then lead change. Our Iceberg Is Melting is based on the authors research on successful organizational change and the eight steps needed to bring it about.

Things are going to change – how we anticipate, react to and lead change will separate winners and losers in the 21st century, technologically driven, transformational, disruptive, global knowledge economy.

"There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered."
– Nelson Mandela

About Tom Watkins

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

Here are some suggestions to both adapt to change and lead it:

- Life-long learning and the ability to learn, unlearn and relearn will be critical skills. We must be willing to invest in education for yourself, your family and the broader community. Our only option to remain economically relevant and globally competitive will be the continued investment in education from the cradle to the grave. Talent will be the commodity that will rule in the 21st century.
- Become and entrepreneur. Yes, entrepreneurs can and should exist in private business and government and education. Entrepreneurs have a high tolerance for risk and are seeking new, better and more efficient ways of getting the job done. They embrace the future and drive forward and do not keep their eyes fixated on the rearview mirror. They don't just react to change – they lead change.
- Reform, restructure and reinvent. Individuals and government at every level must become efficient and effective. Pretending the world has not changed significantly should not be an option. Denial has a way of catching up with us individually and organizationally. If your roof is leaking – fix it. Better still, anticipate and take preventative measures before it leaks.
- Become a pioneer-not a settler. Clearly, the safe route is to follow others that have come before but leaders reap the greatest rewards.
- Think globally, connect technologically. Thomas Friedman, the New York Times columnist's book, "The World Is Flat" has gained much acclaim. If you accept his premise, the only question then becomes what are you doing as an individual and organization to tilt the world in a way that' benefits you? In today's world, all interactions are global. No business, government or educational organization is immune from global and technologically realities. How are you plugged in to this new reality?

Change is the most talked about and least acted on concept in most organizations today. There is built in resistance to change. The status quo has powerful allies in all organizations. It is easier to dig organizational moats than to build successful bridges to change. Yet bridges help move you forward while moats only keep the invaders at bay for brief periods of time.

As individuals and a state, we must realize that we must change – because the rest of the world is – and they are not waiting for us to catch-up. They're gone!

NOVI NEWS STAFF

Grace Perry - General Manager
gperry@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 120

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

Jeff Theisen - Sports Writer
jtheisen@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 104

Kelly Sellar - Advertising
ksellar@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 116

Abbie Holden - Office Asst.
aholden@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700

Margery Taurianen - Office Asst.
mtaurianen@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

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

Novi News
104 W. Main, Suite 101
Northville, MI 48167
FAX: (248) 349-9832
www.novinews.com

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HOT TICKET: "Ringing in the Holidays" 6-9 p.m. Friday on Main Street featuring the Electric Light Parade

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

MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, November 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

EVENTS

Novi Woods Holiday Shop
DATE: Thursday, Nov. 29 and Friday, Nov. 30
LOCATION: 25195 Taft Road, Novi
DETAILS: Children may purchase holiday gifts for their friends and family in a safe environment with assistance from volunteers. Visit Huntington Bank on Wixom Road and get $4.50 worth of free Holiday Bucks to spend at the Holiday Shop just for mentioning Novi Woods. School conferences also occur on Nov. 29.

Life Line Screening for Stroke and Osteoporosis
TIME/DATE: Starting at 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 30
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 West 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Novi community members can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke. Screenings are fast, painless and affordable. A bone density screening is also offered for both men and women. Registration required for the stroke, vascular disease and heart rhythm screenings for $149, with osteoporosis added for an additional $10. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes. For information or to schedule an appointment, call (888) 754-1464.

Ringing in the Holidays
TIME/DATE: 6-9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30
LOCATION: Main Street
DETAILS: This event features the "Electric Light Parade," a variety of stage performances, including Sarah Lenore, digital Santa photos, food from local restaurants, marshmallow roasting, a hockey skills area, the Jingle Bell Jog, carriage rides and lighting the official city tree. Opportunities for sponsorship and food vendors are available.
CONTACT: Derek O. Smith (248) 347-0474

Food Drive
DATE: Dec. 1-8
LOCATION: Smart Chicks Consignment, 43039 Grand River
DETAILS: Bring in 2 non-perishable food items for the Gleaners Community Food Band, and receive a $5-off coupon, good towards December purchases.
CONTACT: (248)347-1600 or www.smartchicks.net

Hats, Scarves, Gloves Collection
LOCATION: Provident Dentistry, 40105 Grand River, Suite 1
DETAILS: Doctor's Angelocci, Kessler and Nielsen and their staff are collecting hats, scarves and gloves for needy school children, grades K-5, in the Novi area. Please bring items to the dental office; call for further information (248) 471-0345.

Novi High School Dance Company Workshop
DATE: Saturday, Dec. 1
TIME: Depending on session, from 10:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi High School
DETAILS: Dancers take classes and learn routines from the Novi Dance Company in the styles of jazz, modern/comtemporary, and jazz funk; classes are $15 per session or $35 for all three sessions. All dancers participating in this workshop will learn a routine which they may perform (optional) in concert on Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at Novi High School. No experience required. Registration required, contact Katy Hartley at khartley@novi.k12.mi.us or by calling (248) 449-1500.

Detroit Area Camera Show
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1
LOCATION: Sheraton Novi Conference Center, 21111 Haggerty Road, Novi
DETAILS: Camera dealers from all over the Midwest will be available to buy, sell and trade camera equipment; admission is $6/5 with card, students $2 with ID. Also in Troy from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2 at the Elks Lodge, 1451 Big Beaver Road.
CONTACT: Sam Vinegar, (248) 591-7437 or visit www.photorama.com

City of Walled Lake Tree Lighting Ceremony
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3
LOCATION: In front of the Walled Lake Library.
DETAILS: All are invited to the annual lighting of the holiday tree; caroling, entertainment, light refreshments and a visit from Santa are also scheduled. Please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to Hospitality House.

"West Side Story" at Walled Lake Central
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29, Friday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 1; 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1 and 2.
DETAILS: The high school performing arts department presents this American classic; tickets are $14 for adults and $12 for students and seniors and can be ordered at (248) 360-8156 or online at wlcperformingarts.org.

Novi Woods "Children of the Woods" Concert
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3
LOCATION: 25195 Taft Road, Novi

An Evening With Thomas Jefferson
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Auditorium, 49000 11 Mile Road
DETAILS: Direct from his colonial home in Williamsburg, Va. comes Thomas Jefferson. Character interpreter, Bill Barker will present the life of Thomas Jefferson. This event is sponsored by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, brought to Novi through the support of an anonymous donor. This presentation is free to the public.
CONTACT: Gary Hurst (248) 449-1250 or ghurst@novi.k12.mi.us

The Second City's "Dysfunctional Holiday Revue"
TIME: 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, $15; 8 and 10 p.m. Fridays, $20; 7 and 9 p.m. (11 p.m. in December) Saturdays, $20; and 8 p.m. Sundays, $15
LOCATION: The Second City, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: Get a healthy dose of seasonal satire with The Second City's 31st revue; directed by Mark Levenson of Novi.
CONTACT: For tickets or information, call (248) 348-4448 or visit www.secondcity.com

Art Van Community Events
Art Van Furniture Store, 27775 Novi Road, Novi, (248) 348-8922
Toys for Tots
DATE: Please donate a new, unwrapped toy for a child and drop it off at any Art Van store. Toys will be delivered to local children by Christmas day. No toy guns please.
Visit with Santa
TIME/DATE: 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15
DETAILS: Children can visit with Santa and receive a treat; bring your camera.

Improv and Comedy Writing Classes
TIME/DATE: Registration is open through Dec. 14; Class begins Jan. 5.
LOCATION: The Second City Training Center, 42705 Grand River
DETAILS: Classes meet once per week (8 weeks) for 3 hours. Tuition is $200, due in full upon registration (no refunds, non transferable).
CONTACT: Visit www.secondcity.com or call (248) 348-4448.

Novi Rotary Club
TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday
LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Lunch is $10 at meeting, visitors welcome, check website for speaker information, www.novirotary.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 novirotary@twmi.rr.com

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 at (248) 347-4622 or wmgncc@yahoo.com. Also visit www.greater-novichamber.com.
After Hours Holiday Bazaar
TIME/DATE: 5:20-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29
LOCATION: Fleming's Steak House, 17400 Haggerty (south of Seven Mile Road)
DETAILS: Great food and gift ideas from our home-based retailers; $10.
Arts Round Table
TIME/DATE: 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4
LOCATION: MIXX Lounge, Main Street
DETAILS: Everyone is welcome to discuss art and culture with our local artists.
Member Luncheon
TIME/DATE: Registration at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon Wednesday, Dec. 5
LOCATION: Gus O'Connor's
DETAILS: Potential board members to be announced; $25 per member, $30 per non-member.
B2B Breakfast
TIME/DATE: 7:45-9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12
LOCATION: Larson Jewelry & Design, 43315 Main St.
DETAILS: Present a 30-minute commercial about your business and network; $5 per member, $10 per non-member.
Experience West Oakland
TIME/DATE: 3-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13
LOCATION: Compuware Ice Arena, M-14 and Beck Roads
DETAILS: Join this group in bringing more visitors and conventions to our area.

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.
Ringing in the Holidays Electric Light Parade
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 30
LOCATION: Main Street
DETAILS: The Chamber will be participating in the Electric Light Parade. If you would like to join us in the fun, please contact the Chamber at the number listed above.
Holiday Luncheon "Come Spread the Cheer"
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4
LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, Novi
DETAILS: Members and their guests are invited to attend the holiday luncheon. 50/50 raffle and fabulous prizes. Please RSVP to the Chamber.

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.lakesareachamber.com or (248) 624-2826.
Tree Lighting Ceremoniesa
White Lake
TIME/DATE: 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29
Walled Lake
TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3
Morning Connection
TIME/DATE: 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4
LOCATION: 8175 Commerce Road, Commerce Township
DETAILS: Adrianne's Country Cove Gift Shop sponsors coffee and networking between local business owners.
Heart of the Lakes Gala Meeting
TIME/DATE: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11
LOCATION: Chamber Office, 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Ste. B, Walled Lake
DETAILS: Participation in planning the 2008 Gala welcome.
Holiday Mixer
TIME/DATE: 5-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11
LOCATION: The Maples Club, 31260 Wakefield Dr., Novi
DETAILS: Enjoyable evening of festivities, food, cash bar, 50/50 and prize drawings. $10 per person.

BUSINESS

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

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Healing Arts
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., 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: Beginners welcome.
Express Yourself with Art and Color
DETAILS: $5 materials fee; call for times and registration.
Ceramics Class
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; Friday by appointment
DETAILS: $10 materials fee.
Knittin' Yarns
TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday
DETAILS: Join others and create hats and shawls for those in need.
Creative Moments with Scrapbooking
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-noon Tuesday
DETAILS: $3 materials fee.
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: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Monday (for backs); 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday (for backs); 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday (for backs); 5-6 p.m. Thursday (prenatal); 6:05-7:05 p.m. Thursday (for backs) and 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday (for backs)
DETAILS: $10/walk-in; $80/10-class card; $45/5-class card; Lunch and Learn Yoga 7-week session is $60; registration required.
Massage Therapy
TIME/DATE: By appointment
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 (248) 465-4300 for appointment; $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.

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi Community School District Board of Education Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road
DETAILS: Discussion to set the regular election date will take place.
CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

Novi City Council Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 4
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720
Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
Knitters 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 librarian; please call to join.
Bone Density Screening for Women
TIME/DATE: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29
DETAILS: Women over 40 may register for a free bone density screening presented by St. John Health.
Wrap it up in Style
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 1
DETAILS: Children grade 3 and up can register to learn holiday wrapping techniques.
English Conversation Group
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Dec. 4
DETAILS: Make friends and practice English; group guided by a volunteer form the Oakland County Literacy Council; no registration required.
Michigan Works
TIME/DATE: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6
DETAILS: Learn to research the job market for the best jobs.
Snacktales
TIME/DATE: 7-7:45 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10
DETAILS: Children in grades K-4 can register to listen to stories and make a story-related snake.
Dance, Dance Revolution
TIME/DATE: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11
DETAILS: DDR is for children grade 3 and up.
Battle of the Books Coaches Meeting
TIME/DATE: 7-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12
DETAILS: Coaches learn details regarding the competition and receive a set of books for their team.
H & R Block Year-end Tax Strategies
TIME/DATE: 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13
DETAILS: Register online or call the library for up to date information regarding your 2007 tax return.

Walled Lake City Library
LOCATION: 1499 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
Holiday Tea Party
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11
Classical Music Series
TIME/DATE: 2 p.m. first Tuesday of each month
Friends of the Library Meeting
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of month.
Book Discussion Group
TIME/DATE: 12:30 p.m. third Tuesday of each month
DETAILS: Drop in for informal discussion; bring a bag lunch; check library for current book selection.
Story & Snacks Family Time
TIME/DAY: 6:30 every Thursday
Library Board of Trustees Meeting
TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. second Friday of every month

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. every Thursday
DETAILS: Coffee and conversation-Improve 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.

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

Moonlight Story Time "Candy Canes and Snowmen"
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3
DETAILS: For children ages 2-6 with parent or caregiver; stories, songs and crafts.
One-Stroke Painting: Holiday Ornament
TIME/DATE: 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6
DETAILS: Paint your own glass ornament to take home.
Fabulous Fantastic Fridays "Alphabetical Antics"
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 7
DETAILS: For children ages 2-6 with a parent or caregiver; program offer stories, songs crafts and food.
Holiday Celebration, A Magical Puppet Show
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15
DETAILS: For children in grades K-5; Rob Papineau of Pippin Puppets presents "The Winning Wizard and the Trophy Hat"; registration required.

NOVI SENIORS

Novi Senior Activities Center
LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0414
Massage by appointment: 12:30-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday
Thursday
9 a.m.: Line Dance-Int.
10 a.m.: Meditation
11:15 a.m.: Line Dance-Beg.
Noon: Lunch
12:15 p.m.: Contract Bridge
1 p.m.: Golden Age Program on Medicare-Part D; Computer Lab
2:30 p.m.: Line Dance
Friday
9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
Noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m. Dupl. Bridge
1 p.m.: Bingo
Monday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength (tape)
10 a.m.: Body Recall
Noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Pinochle;
1 p.m.: Virtual Bowling
Tuesday
8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread; Coffee and Conversation
9-11 a.m.: Line Dance-Int.
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
11 a.m.: Computer Lab until noon; Healthy Holiday Snacks
Noon: Lunch
1 p.m.: Bingo in Activities Room
Wednesday
9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength (tape)
10 a.m.: Body Recall
11 a.m.: TOPS; Blood Pressure
11:30 a.m.: Beg. Clogging
Noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Club Clogging
1 p.m.: "Talk it Over"
6:30 p.m.: Beg/Easy/Int. Clogging
7:30 p.m.: Club Clogging

Waltonwood at Twelve Oaks
Independent Living Residence, Licensed Assisted Living, Licensed Memory Care
LOCATION: 27475 Huron Circle (adjacent to Twelve Oaks Mall)
CONTACT: (248) 735-1500
Open House
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily or by appointment.

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational
LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, senior minister (248) 348-7757 or visit www.mbccc.org or gmccc@arounddetroit.biz
Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.

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
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month
DETAILS: Offering support and open discussion for all those dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

Church of the Holy Family
LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org
Mass Schedule
TIME/DAY: 7:30, 8:45,10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday; 7 p.m. Tuesday; 9 a.m. Wednesday-Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday
Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. last Wednesday of each month
DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.
CONTACT: Lisa Molloy (248) 334-3595
Interested in the Catholic Church?
CONTACT: Call Maria at (248)349-8847 or spiritwalker001@aol.com

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

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

Novi United Methodist
LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit www.umcnovi.com
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:45 a.m.
Peace Vigil
TIME/DATE: Noon, first Sunday of every month
LOCATION: In front of the church
DETAILS: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.
Artists and Crafters Wanted
DETAILS: The church is hosting an arts and craft show Saturday, June 21, 2008. Vendor space will be available indoors and out; contact Pam Davis, edleecr@yahoo.com

First United Methodist of Northville
LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org
Sunday Worship
DETAILS: 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m.
Healing Service
TIME/DATE: 4 p.m. first Monday of every month
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.
Radical Joy
TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. first and third Thursday of each month
LOCATION: Chapel Lounge
DETAILS: For women looking to connect more closely with their faith, community and other women. Registration required.
Radical Joy Christmas Soiree
TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6
DETAILS: All women of the church and community are invited; $10 per ticket, $7 for members.
Suicide Loss Support Group
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. second Thursday and fourth Monday of each month
DETAILS: New Hope Center for Grief Support is offering this support group to those who have lost a loved one to suicide.
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.
Classical Bells Holiday Concert
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2
LOCATION: St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia
DETAILS: Presented with the 60 voice Livonia Civic Chorus; tickets $14 at door or $12 in advance, $10 for groups of 10 or more.
CONTACT: (734) 422-6038

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.

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 Sunday through Dec. 30
LOCATION: Room A101-103
DETAILS: Karen Nottenkamper covers "The Life You've Always Wanted," a study by John Ortberg.

continued on 15A

Want recommendations for a pediatrician near you?

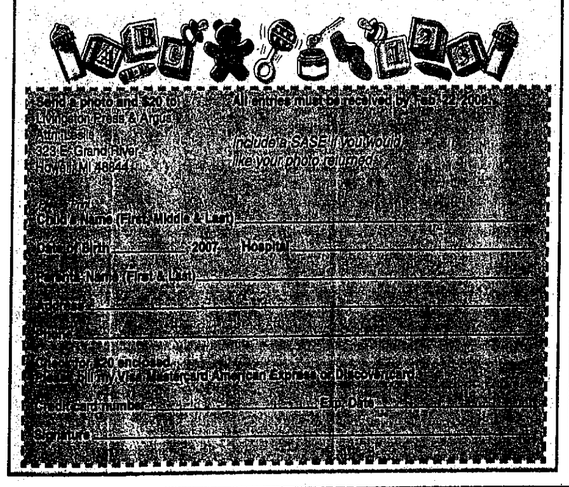
Michigan Moms will help you find one on your side of town. Log on today and save time searching for a doctor – ask local moms.

Oh Baby 2007!

Calling all Proud Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Brothers & Sisters! Don't miss your chance to be a part of 2007 "Oh Baby!"

Gavin Schonfeld
Wyandotte Hospital
Bryce & Angela

Babies born in 2007 will be presented March 6, 2008. Submit your baby's photo today!



Send a photo and $20 to: All entries must be received by Feb. 22, 2008.
Oh Baby Fees & Entries
Attn: Kelly
323 E. Grand River
Howell, MI 48843
Include a SASE if you want the photo returned.
Please print clearly.
Child's Name (First, Middle & Last)
Child's Birth _____ 2007 Hospital
Parents' Name (First & Last)
Address
City
State Zip
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Check or M.O. enclosed
Charge it to my Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover Card
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Spotlight on Business

Fitness Together / Elements

(248)-348-9230 / (248)-348-8770

www.ftnovi.com / www.elementsnovi.com

One of Novi's most popular businesses for people seeking healthy and fit lifestyles just added a new 'companion' business — one that brings another dimension to maintaining a strong sense of well-being.

Fitness Together, a national franchisor whose motto is '1 Client – 1 Trainer – 1 Goal' has created a new franchise concept in Elements Therapeutic Massage to create a complete program for people seeking healthy lifestyles throughout Novi, Oakland County, and beyond. The two businesses are located side-by-side in the Briarpoint Plaza at Ten Mile and Beck Roads. Boo Sadikot, owner of Fitness Together and Elements; and Kimberly Warner, manager of Elements are excited about the opportunities available to their clients; combining a healthy diet and fitness program with a relaxing massage program.

Fitness Together trainer Lisa Ryan (rear) helps a client with one of many fitness exercises that are part of an overall fitness and health program.

Elements

Boo explained that the inspiration to open Elements next door to Fitness Together is part of a move toward making healthy lifestyles more "mainstream." Elements opened its doors in October. "We want massage therapy to become mainstream and Elements is the affordable way to achieve this," he said. "And it isn't necessary to pay the high cost of what day spas charge."

The massage program has many benefits, according to Kimberly. "Regular massage has healthy benefits such as boosting your immune system and raising your mood-elevating brain chemicals," she said. "Here at Elements we make staying healthy easy and enjoyable for you, your family, and your friends."

Kimberly listed the five massages that the business specializes in, including:

- Swedish massage — Light and relaxing massage that utilizes long, flowing strokes; often but not necessarily in the direction of the heart.
- Deep Tissue & Trigger Point massage — Deep muscle massage flushes toxins from the body and enhances the immune system. Direct pressure applied by the therapist relieves tension immediately.
- Sports massage — Designed to reduce sports injuries and alleviate inflammation. It is used for all athletes before, during, and after training events.
- Prenatal massage — A form of therapeutic bodywork which focuses on the special needs of the mother-to-be as her body goes through dramatic changes.
- Hot stone massage — A deeply soothing and relaxing massage that combines Swedish or Deep Tissue massage with 15-30 smooth basalt stones heated to 125 degrees, allowing muscles to relax more quickly.

Elements offers monthly massages for $49 each in a membership package; a massage package which includes twelve 55-minute massages that can be shared by family and friends for $669; walk-in rate of $65; and no contracts. Kimberly added, "Refer a friend and earn $10 off your next massage."

For more information call (248)-348-8770 or visit www.elementsnovi.com.

Fitness Together

Americans are becoming obese at an alarming rate, and Fitness Together has plans to combat the rise in unhealthy lifestyles. Boo quoted some recent figures to support his fitness and health programs.

"According to a study from the Center for Disease Control, 35% of the U.S. population is overweight and 27% are clinically obese," Boo said. "That's well over half of our population. That's amazing. And approximately 33 billion dollars are spent on health and fitness products annually and yet people are still gaining weight." He added that there are things that people can do to help us live healthier lives. "For starters, we must change our behaviors," he said. "Most health problems are due to poor eating habits and being too sedentary.

"It's a fact that when one exercises, the brain releases chemicals that not only increase our energy levels but make us feel great. The more habit forming we can make this than the better we will feel on a regular basis."

In it's program, Fitness Together customizes a healthy plan for each client. The first step in the program is to set up a fitness assessment, a 9-page report on the current physical condition of the client. The report addresses four major components that need to be addressed in order reach health and fitness goals: (1) strength, (2) nutrition, (3) cardio, and (4) flexibility.

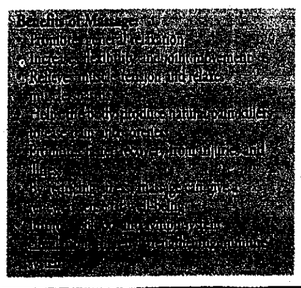
"Once the report is done, I will put a complete program together for each client," Boo added. "Then we will set up a schedule with our personal trainers and clients that includes 2-3 visits to our facility each week." The Novi facility has all of the latest fitness equipment and private training rooms for each one-on-one session.

After eight weeks, Boo and his trainers assess the progress of each program. "We are looking for consistent progress throughout the process," he said. The programs are not necessarily structured with a beginning or ending date — what matters most is that clients are able to achieve their short- and long-term fitness goals.

For more information call (248)-348-9230 or visit www.ftnovi.com.

By John R. Hall

Kimberly Warner, manager of Elements Therapeutic Massage, is shown in the lobby of the new office in the Briarpoint Plaza in Novi.



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Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 10-6
Thurs. 10-8; Sat. 10-5

continued from 13A

WOW Bible Studies
TIME/DATE: 9:30-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday through Dec. 12
LOCATION: Chapel (NE corner of church)
DETAILS: Theme "In Your Wildest Dreams;" 7 small group classes.
Book Study
TIME/DATE: 7-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday through Dec. 12
LOCATION: Room C309
DETAILS: "Discerning His Voice" by Priscilla Shirer.
MOPS
TIME/DATE: 9:15-11:15 a.m. and 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month
LOCATION: Room C307-309
DETAILS: Support and encouragement for mothers of young children
CONTACT: Day MOPS, Jan Janke (734) 367-9171; for evening MOPS, Keli Plansinis (248) 561-8019.
Single Point Ministries
For single adults 40 years and older
CONTACT: (248) 374-5920

St. Paul Lutheran
LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
CONTACT: (248) 349-3140
Sunday Worship
TIME: 8:30, 11 and 11:30 a.m.

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
Assault Crime Prevention
TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29
DETAILS: Presentation by Ian Kinder from Life Safe Academy, LLC, a safety and self defense school.
Walking Group
TIME/DATE: 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.
Advent Candlelight Concert: Messiah
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2
LOCATION: Church sanctuary
DETAILS: Handel's "Messiah" will be performed by the Northville Concert Chorale, accompanied by the Michigan Sinfonietta Orchestra of Ann Arbor, featuring professional guest soloists and conducted by Dr. Darlene Kuperus; tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for seniors and $5 for students 12-18 years old, children under 11 are free; purchase tickets in advance at the church office during business hours, after Sunday services or at the door.
CONTACT: Darlene Kuperus, Music Director at (248) 349-0911 ext. 206
Divorce Recovery
DATE: Through Dec. 6
DETAILS: $35 per person, various speakers, topics and pot luck.

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

Univeralist Unitarian Church of Farmington
LOCATION: 25301 Halsted Road, Farmington Hills
CONTACT: (248) 318-8044 or www.uufarmigton.org

Faith Community Presbyterian
LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship
TIME: 9, 10:30 a.m.
"Discovering The Bible" Kerygma class
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. every Tuesday
Advent Workshop "Walk to Bethlehem" Birthday Party for Jesus
TIME/DATE: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2
Christmas Cantata with Choir and Orchestra
TIME/DATE: 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 16

GracePointe Presbyterian
CONTACT: Rev. Brian C. Sleeth, Pastor (248) 497-3178; www.gracepointepca.org; e-mail gracepointe@mac.com
TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23, Special Christmas Service
LOCATION: Crown Plaza Hotel, Novi

Orchard Hills Baptist Church
LOCATION: 23455 Novi Road
CONTACT: Pastor Jon Hix (248) 349-5665
Preschool/Kids Choir
TIME/DATE: 7-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday
DETAILS: For ages three to six; ongoing event, no need to pre-register; all are welcome.

St. John's Episcopal Church
LOCATION: 574 S. Sheldon Road, Plymouth
CONTACT: (734) 453-0190
Reinventing Your Life-God is Calling You to a Song
TIME/DATE: 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesday evenings
DETAILS: Minimum of 10 people required to attend every session.
CONTACT: Elizabeth Wilhelm (734) 953-0190 ext. 10
Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2
DETAILS: This worship experience features traditional Advent carols and contemporary musical expressions of the Advent journey.
CONTACT: Scott Elsholz, music minister (734) 474-5551 ext. 16

Send your calendar items to Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to vemitchell@gannett.com.

Giving Season

Pamela's Salon owner Pamela Manza and her staff pose by their "giving tree" at their Novi Road location. The giving tree is filled with gifts to be delivered to Ennis for Children. Manza began filling the tree with 150 gold stars in November. Each star contained the name, age, gender and wish list of a child in foster care this holiday season. For more information call Pamela's Salon at (248) 349-9925.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

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Mortedella Classica, Classic Mortedella with Pistachio $4.99 lb.
Old Tyme Old Fashioned Hard Salami $3.99 lb.

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Dietz & Watson
Hard Salami $4.99 lb.
Horseradish Cheese $5.99 lb.
London Broil Roast Beef or Corned Beef $7.99 lb.

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Brown Sugar Ham $5.99 lb.
Thuringer $5.69 lb.
Veal Bologna $4.99 lb.
Sahlens
Smokehouse Ham or Lemon Pepper Chicken Breast $5.99 lb.
Oven Roasted Turkey $7.59 lb.

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Swiss Cheese $5.69 lb.
Muenster or Provolone Cheese $4.99 lb.
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WINTER SEASON SPORTS SCHEDULES

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My Novi Sports

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Novi lands 4 on All-Area Swim 1st Team

SPORTS, 2B

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2007 • WWW.NOVINEWS.COM • SPORTS SUBMISSIONS: JTHEISEN@GANNETT.COM • PAGE 1B

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: BOYS BASKETBALL

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

Heitsch takes over loaded Novi team

■ Dean, Hoover could help Wildcats reach new heights

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Novi boys basketball starts a new era with Cory Heitsch taking over.

The transition should be a comfortable one with plenty of familiar faces returning to the lineup, with a couple of new faces sprinkled in.

"It's always easier going into a new situation with talented kids," Heitsch said. "I went through a coaching change in college and it's difficult. It's kind of an awkward phase.

"We have to have a willingness to compromise with each other. The seniors have stepped up."

Caleb Dean and Tyler Hoover will provide a massive combination of size and power inside. Dean, around 6-9, and 6-7 Hoover will be the focus of the offense.

Heitsch said Dean has grown a little bit, but really bulked up in the weight room.

"He's doing fantastic," Heitsch said. "He's recommitted himself to being a true post player."

But they won't be the only options.

Newcomers Brandon Bryant and Aaron Pugh will see playing time at guard along with returnees Brandon Bradford and Chris Bellamy.

"We will play inside out," Heitsch said. "That doesn't mean the ball has to get inside the post on every play. We do have some kids that can shoot it. We will play advantage basketball. We are big and athletic.

"The guards in the league are very good. I'll put our top three guards up against anyone."

Heitsch said the two early strengths of the team are its athleticism and the depth.

"We don't have to rely on one or two kids," he said. "That makes my job so much easier. It keeps kids accountable for providing energy."

See BASKETBALL, 2B

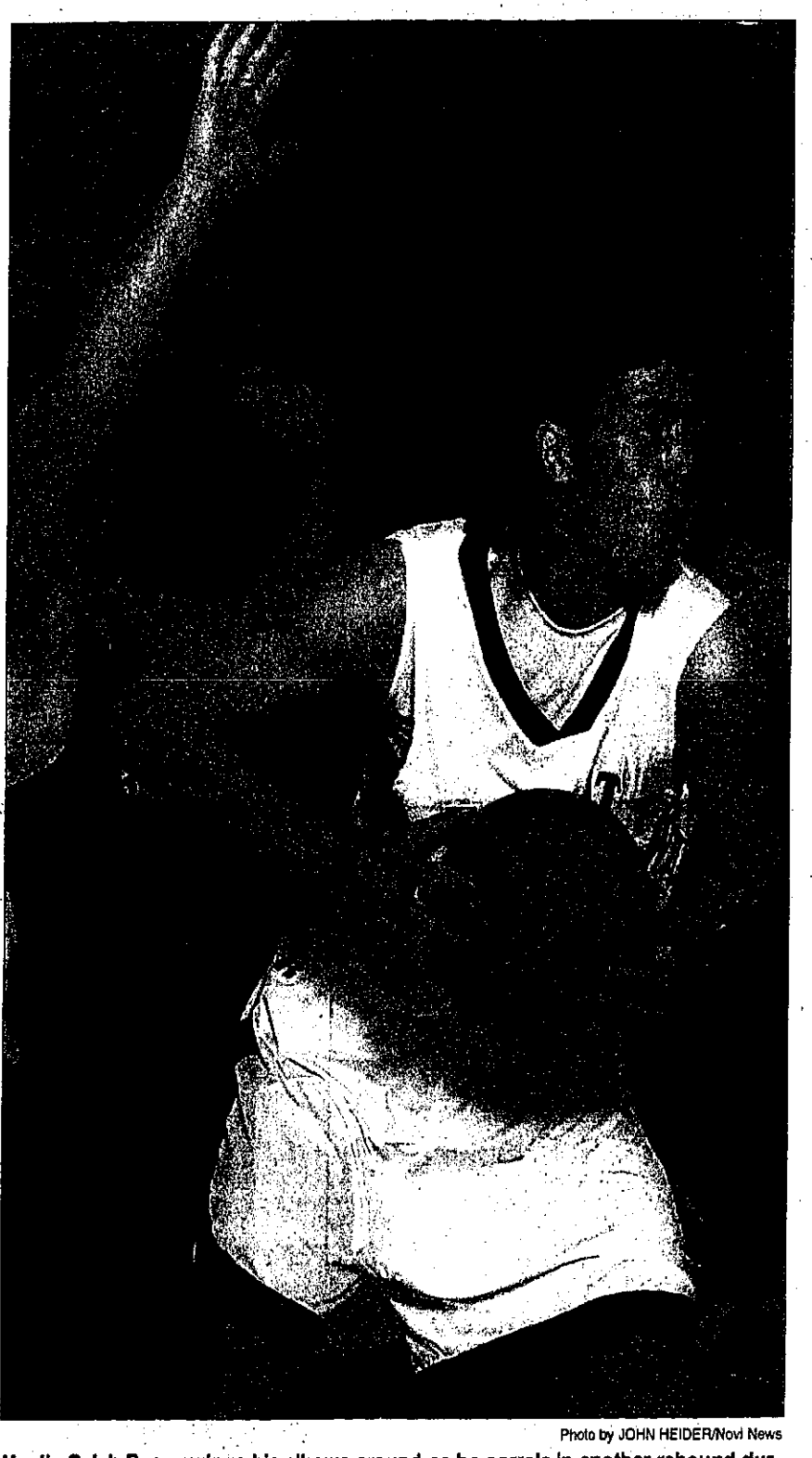

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Caleb Dean swings his elbows around as he corrals in another rebound during the Wildcats' Friday night game against South Lyon.

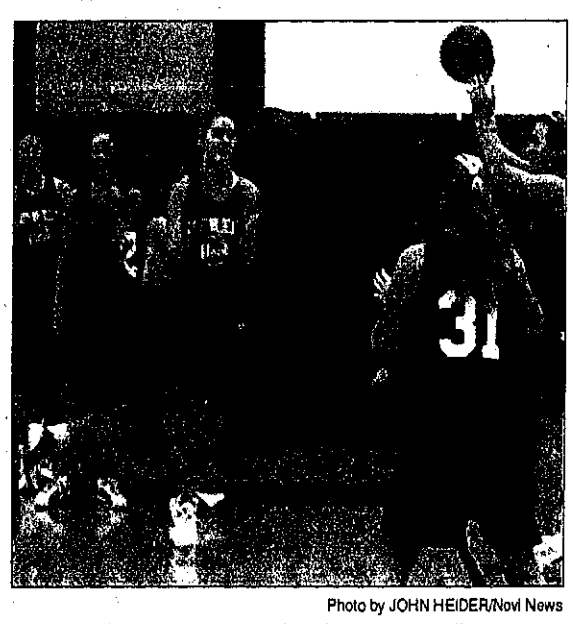

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The Novi High School varsity girls basketball team works out after school the week before Thanksgiving. The lady Wildcats' season starts the last week of November.

Seeking another banner season

Young Wildcats will have to mature fast for team's success

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Novi girls basketball captured a district title last year.

But gone are some key players from that team.

To get back to regional play, the Wildcats are going to need plenty of girls to step up into roles vacated by graduation.

Key returnees include senior Katie Chaklos, sophomore Caroline Johnson, Melissa Gasiorek, Jessica Cingel and Paige Janer.

Novi head coach Bill Kelp said Chaklos will be his shut down defender on the opposition's best guard.

Johnson can play all over the court and will be looked upon to lead the offense.

Gasiorek is an energy player, and Cingel will be another offensive leader with good rebounding skills.

Janer returns after an extended run with the volleyball team.

"She's an athlete and a half," Kelp said. "She's gotten way better with her shot.

"Everybody was so happy when she was back. It was good to see her back out there."

Novi was young last year and will be again with four sophomores and two freshmen on board.

"We're very young with good leadership, " Kelp said. "We're maybe a little bit younger than last year. A lot's going to hinge on how quickly they develop."

Kelp sees athleticism as the early strength of the team.

"We get up the floor and push the ball," he said. "Our leadership is a strength with our seniors."

Last year's run through the districts came from a team without a true star. Kelp sees this year's team much in the same mold.

"They learned how to play as a team," he said. "We didn't have anybody average 10 points. The scoring was balanced.

You might see that with this team, too — not caring who does what, just as long as they succeed as a team."

Kelp sees the KVC as a league with a lot of depth, but he still keeps Brighton at the top of the list.

"Brighton has won it 8-9 years in a row — they're always loaded," he said. "I think it's the most balance in the league for the five years I've been here. For the first time, besides Brighton, it's pretty open."

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

'Cats hope to keep success rolling

■ Novi looks to build off Final Four finish

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Novi hockey head coach Todd Krygier hopes to build on an incredible first season with the Wildcats.

After a rough start (3-8-1), Novi finished with a playoff run that left the Wildcats in the final four.

Krygier hopes to build on the finish, minus the rough start.

"We don't want to go through a 3-8-1 start again. Hopefully we'll pull it together sooner than last year," Krygier said. "I'm excited. They have big shoes to fill from last year.

"We have a lot of good depth. Our challenge will be scorers. We lost a lot of scoring from last year."

The early strength for the Wildcats will come from the defense. Krygier said the team is set with six solid defensemen, and the return of goalkeeper Kevin Michalzuk should help keep the Wildcats in every game.

Krygier also said the work ethic has been a strength.

"I think the guys have been working hard," he said. "They're starting to do a better job of working on the system."

Scoring will be an issue, at least early, for the Wildcats as players will have to step into vacated rolls.

Novi scored just two goals in losses in the first two games but rallied to score five in a win against Milford.

"The biggest thing is to get some scoring," Krygier said. "It goes back to getting to the basics — make sure you're hitting the net."

Krygier decided to keep a few extra players, setting with 23 for the varsity team. He doesn't want players getting complacent with playing time, and keeping a few extra players will keep competition for time going.

Andrew Haggerty returns as the captain. The assistant captains are Mark Bernier and Adam Szajner.

The KVC should have plenty of good competition. The Wildcats finished in the middle of the pack

See HOCKEY, 2B

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcat Tom Dircks hustles to the bench for a line change.

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All-Area Swim and Dive: Johnson swims to title

By Patrick Pinter and Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITERS

It might have taken Milford senior Liz Johnson a little longer than she liked to capture her first state swimming title, but it does not matter now. When all is said and done, she can say she is a state champion.

Johnson put the finishing touches on her high school swimming career by capturing an individual state swimming title in the 200 freestyle at the Division II state swimming finals. She also added a second-place finish in the 100 backstroke at the finals and a top-three finish as a member of the 400 freestyle relay team.

"Winning a state title was definitely the icing on the cake. Over my career everything was going well. I had had Kensington and Oakland County titles," said Johnson. "The state title was the one thing I didn't have. It had been my goal since freshmen year"

Johnson had accomplished almost everything she could during her four years at Milford High School. Some of those accomplishments include individual titles at the Oakland County Championship and the Kensington Valley Conference Championships. Now she can add state champion to that list.

"She is an extremely hard worker and she doesn't settle for just OK," Milford head coach Heather Lutz said. "She has the drive, which set her up for great things."

Johnson not only put together a spectacular resume for herself, she also helped put a young Milford swimming program on the map.

"Her teammates knew from the start she was something special. She was just a phenomenal swimmer," Lutz said. "She showed that with hard work and dedication you can achieve great things."

Johnson has been there since day one for the four-year-old squad. In just those four short seasons she has helped transform the Mavericks into a state contender. This season for the second time Milford took home a seventh place finish at the state meet.

"It has been an honor to be with the Milford program since day one," Johnson said. "Watching the team grow to a point where we are competing at the state meet has been amazing."

Lutz could not have asked for a better swimmer or leader to guide the program during its first four years in existence. Johnson was the perfect fit for the new squad.

"You really couldn't ask for anyone better to lead a program," Lutz said. "You always want to see your girls do well and reap the benefits of working hard, but at that state meet I wanted to see her win a state title so bad. She really believed in the Milford program and for four years she poured her heart and soul into it."

Photo by HAL GOULD

Milford senior Liz Johnson is all smiles after her first-place swim in the 200 Freestyle on Nov. 17 at the Division II state meet at Oakland University.

First Team

Novi places four swimmers on the All-Area First Team, all of which were on the fifth-place medley relay team at state: Meredith Cote, Kerry Abel, Ashley Bush and Dana Hapanowicz.

Abel put in a pair of All-State swims by placing fourth in the 100 butterfly and fifth in the 200 freestyle at the state meet.

Cote placed 13th in the 200 individual medly and in the 500 freestyle.

Bush also qualified for state in the 100 backstroke, and Hapanowicz helped the 400 freestyle relay team swim to a 10th-place finish, with Abel and Cote also on the relay.

Finishing out the First Team are Northville's Rachel Englert, Emily Hopcian, Meghan Kanya and Jessica Weber; Milford's Rachel Johnson and Amy Wallace; Lakeland's Kali Tworkand; and South Lyon's Monica Gironza, Jenna Faletti, Shannon Moceri, Paige Drazga, Olivia Briolat, Chelsea Kemppainen, Julie Kapler and Kacie Vanbuskirk.

Second Team

Novi places four more athletes on the All-Area Second Team: Becca Berman, Mary Anolick, Annalisa Morgan and Madalyn Buha. All four of the Wildcats competed at the state meet.

The rest of the Second Team includes Northville's Ashley Filipowicz, Kelly Burford, Becca Myers and Sam Curry; Milford's Haley Hilt and Morgan Canup; South Lyon's Courtney Smith, Kati Schwarzkopf, Melissa DiRado, Kelly Babcock, Courtney Foley and Samantha Szegedi; and Katheryn Fox of Lakeland.

Honrable Mention

The All-Area Honorable Mention team includes Northville's Mechaela Keady, Amanda Suokas, Megan Trotter, Faith Miller, Kelsey Libbe and Jennifer Jones; Milford's Ashley Little and Sarah Boyle; South Lyon's Christina Bailo, Amy Miner, Karissa Brumley, Catie LaChance, Valerie Pesonen and Kayla Nunez; and Lakeland's Kelley Dearing and Danielle Kind.

The All-Area teams are submitted by coaches with final decisions made by Jeff Theisen and Patrick Pinter.

All-Area Swim and Dive

Player of the Year —
Liz Johnson, Milford senior

First Team
Kerry Abel, Novi junior
Meredith Cote, Novi soph.
Ashley Bush, Novi junior
Dana Hapanowicz, Novi senior
Rachel Johnson, Milford soph.
Amy Wallace, Milford junior
Monica Gironza, S. Lyon soph.
Jenna Faletti, South Lyon junior
Shannon Moceri, S. Lyon junior
Paige Drazga, S. Lyon fr.
Olivia Briolat, South Lyon sr.
Chelsea Kemppainen, S. Lyon senior
Julie Kapler, South Lyon soph.
Kacie Vanbuskirk, S. Lyon fr.
Kali Twork, Lakeland soph.
Rachel Englert, Northville sr.
Emily Hopcian, Northville sr.
Meghan Kanya, Northville sr.
Jessica Weber, Northville junior

Second Team
Becca Berman, Novi freshman
Mary Anolick, Novi junior
Annalisa Morgan, Novi junior
Madalyn Buha, Novi freshman
Haley Hilt, Milford freshman
Morgan Canup, Milford senior
Courtney Smith, South Lyon sr.
Kati Schwarzkopf, S. Lyon jr.
Melissa DiRado, South Lyon sr.
Kelly Babcock, South Lyon sr.
Courtney Foley, South Lyon sr.
Samantha Szegedi, S. Lyon sr.
Katheryn Fox, Lakeland senior
Ashley Filipowicz, Northville so.
Kelly Burford, Northville soph.
Becca Myers, Northville soph.
Sam Curry, Northville junior

Honorable Mention
Ashley Little, Milford soph.
Sarah Boyle, Milford senior
Christina Bailo, South Lyon sr
Amy Miner, South Lyon soph.
Karissa Brumley, South Lyon jr.
Catie LaChance, South Lyon sr.
Valerie Pesonen, South Lyon sr.
Kayla Nunez, South Lyon fresh.
Kelley Dearing, Lakeland senior
Danielle Kind, Lakeland senior
Mechaela Keady, Northville sophomore
Amanda Suokas, Northville senior
Megan Trotter, Northville senior
Faith Miller, Northville freshman
Kelsey Libbe, Northville soph.
Jennifer Jones, Northville fresh.

CC hockey builds around defense

Shamrocks return six defensemen

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central hockey will build around six returning defensemen from last year's 18-7-2 squad.

Four-year player Greg Merrill, the only returning captain in coach Todd Johnson's 13-year career, returns to the defensive unit.

Also back are senior defensemen Mike Bourgon, CJ Pobur and Jeff LeRoy.

Tyler Marble, a sophomore, will man the net.

"We return six defensemen and a very solid, young goalie," Johnson said. "We will build around that depth and depend on them to supplement our unproven offense."

Senior Brad Higgins is the leading returning goal scorer.

The Shamrocks fill in the graduation holes with six players up from the junior varsity. Nick Bates, a junior, gets the varsity call after leading the JV in scoring last year.

The already tough MIHL gets a boost with the new addition of Warren De La Salle.

"The MIHL looks tougher than ever," Johnson said. "Our league will help us prepare for a difficult state tournament draw."

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

Dyer hopes second year brings success

■ CC gains experience from last year's young squad

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central head coach Bill Dyer had a rough first year, winning three games with a very young team.

The Shamrocks will bring a lot more experience to the floor with six returning players, and Dyer hopes that translates into more victories.

"This year, as opposed to last year, we'll have a little bit more experience running our system," he said. "The transition this year has been a lot smoother.

"I think we'll be a much-improved ballclub. We've just got to find a way to win."

Key returnees include forward/center Tim Dezelski and guards Steve Harding and Brett Smith.

While the Shamrocks will have floor experience returning, the bench will have a lot of unproven varsity players that may take some time to get used to the speed of the game.

Dyer knows his team will have to play smart to win.

"We really have to understand what is a good shot and a bad shot," he said. "That will be key."

Other keys include the ability to rebound and make free throws.

The Shamrocks will have to play a variety of defenses, depending on who they are playing and the situation of the games.

Dyer said he expects a brutal schedule with the Catholic League. In the Shamrocks' division, U-D, De La Salle and Orchard Lake St. Mary's are all stocked with talent.

"There are no nights off in the Central anymore," Dyer said.

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

Go to www.novinews.com to see Sport Shorts

■ BASKETBALL: Loaded 'Cats

continued from front

energy."

While the Wildcats should have a potent offense, Heitsch is a believer in defense first. He plans on playing mostly a man-to-man defense.

"If we can't guard people (the offense) isn't going to matter," Heitsch said. "We should be able to guard the basketball and put a ton of pressure on the ball. We're trying to put pressure on people."

Heitsch knows his team has a chance to do some special things this year, and the team's goals reflect it. The Wildcats hope to win the final KVC title and capture a district title. He expects Hartland and Lakeland to be solid teams with South Lyon and Brighton possibly in the mix.

But more than anything, Heitsch is ready to get things going.

"I am extremely excited," he said. "We really do have a pretty challenging first four games of the year. We'll find out quite a bit about one anther in the first two weeks of the year.

"They're just good kids. They seem to be really enjoy themselves in the gym."

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

■ HOCKEY: Novi looking to build

continued from front

last year, and Krygier wants to see improvement in the league also.

"Hopefully we are going to do little better," he said. "I don't think there is any reason we can't move up a couple of spots."

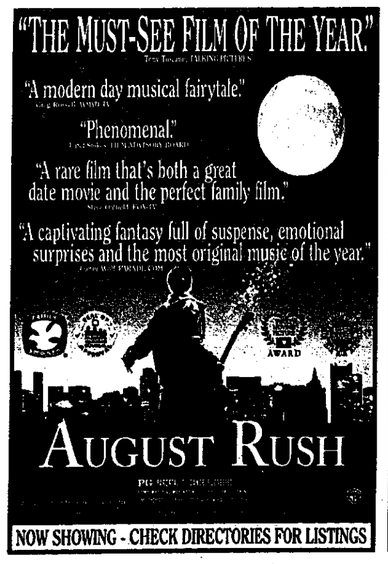
Brighton and Howell are expected to be the front-runners with Lakeland and Howell bringing strong teams.

But Krygier hopes another deep postseason run is in the cards.

"My expectations are as high as they were last year," he said. "We're reaching toward those high goals.

"It's gong to be a lot tougher road this year, because Brother Rice is in the preregional."

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



2007-08 WINTER SCHEDULES

Novi Wildcats

Boys Basketball
(All games 7 p.m.)

12/4	Home	WL Western
12/7	Away	WL Central
12/11	Away	John Glenn
12/14	Home	Northville
12/18	Home	Milford
12/20	Away	Pinckney
12/27	Away	Tri-Unity Christian
1/8	Away	Howell (Parker Campus)
1/11	Home	Lakeland
1/15	Home	Brighton
1/18	Away	South Lyon
1/22	Home	Hartland
1/25	Away	Milford
1/29	Home	Pinckney
1/31	Home	Howell
2/5	Away	Lakeland
2/8	Away	Brighton
2/12	Home	South Lyon
2/15	Away	Hartland
2/22	Home	Flint SW
2/25		Districts

Girls Basketball
(All games 7 p.m.)

11/30	Away	John Glenn
12/4	Away	Berkley
12/6	Home	Northville
12/7	Home	WL Western
12/12	Home	W. Bloomfield
12/18	Away	Milford
12/20	Home	Pinckney
1/8	Home	Howell
1/11	Away	Lakeland
1/15	Away	Brighton
1/18	Home	South Lyon
1/22	Away	Hartland
1/25	Home	Milford
1/29	Away	Pinckney
2/1	Away	Howell (Parker Campus)
2/5	Home	Lakeland
2/8	Home	Brighton
2/12	Away	South Lyon
2/15	Home	Hartland
2/18		
2/25		Districts

Hockey

12/30	Away	Howell	6:50 p.m.
12/5	Home	Lakeland	6:30 p.m.
12/7	Away	Northville	6 p.m.
12/12	Away	Brighton	TBA
12/14	Away	Clarkston Invite	7:30 p.m.
12/15	Away	Clarkston Invite	TBA
12/19	Home	South Lyon	6:30 p.m.
1/4	Away	Calumet	7 p.m.
1/5	Away	Hancock	1 p.m.
1/7	Away	Hartland	6 p.m.
1/9	Away	Milford	6 p.m.
1/16	Home	Pinckney	6:30 p.m.
1/23	Home	Howell	6:30 p.m.
1/26	Home	Forest Hills C.	6:30 p.m.
1/30	Away	Lakeland	7:20 p.m.
2/6	Home	Brighton	6:30 p.m.
2/8	Away	Trenton Showcase	TBA
2/9	Away	Trenton Showcase	TBA
2/12	Away	South Lyon	TBA
2/20	Home	Hartland	6:30 p.m.
2/25	Preregional		TBA

Wrestling

12/1	Away	Adrian	10 a.m.
12/5	Away	Northville	6:30 p.m.
12/7	Home	Franklin	1 p.m.
12/8	Away	Howell	9 a.m.
12/21	Away	Oak. Cty. at Milford	TBA
12/22	Away	Oak. Cty. at L. Orion	TBA
12/29	Away	Salem	9 a.m.
1/9	Away	South Lyon	5:30 p.m.
12/12	Away	Brighton-Vieau Mem.	TBA
12/18	Away	Brighton	5:30 p.m.
12/25	Away	Hartland	5:30 p.m.
12/26	Away	Holt Invite	TBA
2/1	Home	Hartland/Milford	5:30 p.m.
2/9	Away	KVCs at Howell	TBA
2/13	Away	Team Districts	TBA
2/16	Away	Individual Districts	TBA

Boys Swim and Dive

12/8	Away	EMU Classic	1 p.m.
12/13	Home	WL Central	6 p.m.
12/20	Home	Milford	6 p.m.
1/5	Away	W. Bloomfield Invite	9 a.m.
1/10	Away	Howell	6 p.m.
1/15	Away	WL Western	7 p.m.
1/17	Home	Lakeland	6 p.m.
1/22	Home	Northville	6 p.m.
1/29	Away	Brighton	6 p.m.
1/31	Home	South Lyon	6 p.m.
2/1	Away	Oak. Cty. at Roy. Oak	TBA
2/2	Away	Oak. Cty. at Roy. Oak	TBA
2/7	Away	Hartland	6 p.m.
2/12	Away	Pinckney	6 p.m.
2/22	Away	KVC at S. Lyon East	TBA
2/23	Away	KVC at S. Lyon East	TBA
3/4	Away	Dive regional	TBA
3/7	Away	State Final	TBA
3/8	Away	State Final	TBA

Bowling

12/1	Away	Milford at Howell	Noon
12/7	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
12/14	Away	S. Lyon at Hartland	4:30 p.m.
1/11	Away	Howell at Brighton	4:30 p.m.
1/18	Away	Hartland	4:30 p.m.
1/19	Away	Oak. County (boys)	TBA
1/20	Away	Oak. County (girls)	TBA
1/25	Home	Milford	4 p.m.
1/28	Away	Lakeland	5 p.m.
2/1	Away	S. Lyon at Brighton	4:30 p.m.
2/8	Away	Brighton at S. Lyon	4 p.m.
2/11	Away	Howell at Milford	5 p.m.
2/13	Away	Hartland at S. Lyon	4 p.m.
2/15	Away	KVC at S. Lyon	4 p.m.
2/22	Away	Regionals	

Cheer
(all events 7 p.m.)

1/7	Away	Hartland
1/9	Away	Pinckney
1/12	Home	Novi Invite
1/16	Home	Milford
1/23	Home	Howell
1/30	Home	Lakeland
2/2	Away	Ladywood
2/6	Away	Brighton
2/13	Home	South Lyon
2/23	Away	KVC at Hartland
3/1	Away	Regionals

Skiing

1/7	Away	St. Mary Prep	4 p.m.
1/9	Away	WL Northern	4 p.m.
1/15	Away	Bro. Rice/Lakeland	4 p.m.
1/17	Away	WL. West./Hartland	4 p.m.
1/23	Away	W. Bloomfield	4 p.m.
1/24	Away	WL. Cent./Milford	4 p.m.
2/7	Away	Divisional Champ.	9 a.m.
2/14	Away	Regional	TBA
2/19	Away	SEMSL Champ.	TBA

Pom Pon

1/19	Away	Regionals at Churchill	TBA
2/10	Away	State finals at EMU	TBA

Figure Skating

12/8	Away	Plymouth CC	11 a.m.
1/19	Away	Ind. Dist. at D.I.S.C.	8 a.m.
1/21	Away	Farmington	4 p.m.
2/4	Away	Farmington	4 p.m.
3/15	Home	State Finals	8 a.m.

Catholic Central Shamrocks

Basketball
(All games 7:30 p.m. unless noted)

12/4	Home	Farm. Hills Harrison
12/7	Home	Det. Loyola
12/14	Home	Notre Dame Prep
12/15	Away	Farmington (6 p.m.)
12/21	Away	Bishop Foley
12/30	Away	Rndball Class. at OU (5:30 p.m.)
1/4	Away	De La Salle
1/8	Away	Divine Child
1/11	Away	U-D
1/15	Away	Brother Rice
1/18	Home	OL St. Mary
1/22	Home	De La Salle
1/25	Home	Divine Child
1/29	Home	U-D
2/1	Home	Brother Rice
2/5	Away	OL St. Mary
2/9	CHSL	Playoff
2/12	CHSL	Playoff
2/17	CHSL	Playoff
2/23	PSL	

Hockey
(Compuware home arena)

12/1	Home	Monroe St. Mary CC	7 p.m.
12/6	Away	De La Salle (Great Lakes Sports)	8:15 p.m.
12/8	Home	OL St. Mary	7 p.m.
12/12	Away	Brother Rice (Oak Park)	6:30 p.m.
12/15	Home	Brighton	7 p.m.
12/22	Home	U-D	7 p.m.
1/5	Home	PH Northern	7 p.m.
1/11	Away	Cranbrook	7:30 p.m.
1/12	Home	Trenton	7 p.m.
1/16	Away	GP North (Mt. Clemens)	7:30 p.m.
1/19	Home	Cranbrook	7 p.m.
1/25	Away	Culver Mil. Acad. (Culver Ice Arena)	7 p.m.
1/26	Away	Culver Mil. Acad. (Culver Ice Arena)	2 p.m.
1/30	Away	Trenton (Kennedy)	7:30 p.m.
2/2	Home	De La Salle	7 p.m.
2/8	Away	MIHL Tourney (Kennedy)	TBA
2/9	Away	MIHL Tourney (Kennedy)	TBA
2/14	Away	PH Northern (McMoran Ice Arena)	6 p.m.
2/16	Away	CHSL Tourney (OL St. Mary)	6 p.m.
2/23	Home	Brother Rice	7 p.m.
2/25		Regionals	

Wrestling

11/30	Home	Lowell (assembly match)	2:10 p.m.
12/6	Home	John Glenn	5:30 p.m.
12/7	Away	Clarkston (at U-M)	5 p.m.
12/8	Away	Kent County Classic (Grand Rapaids Central)	9 a.m.
12/13	Away	Davison	6 p.m.
12/21	Away	Oak. County Tourn. (Milford)	3 p.m.
12/22	Away	Oak. County Tourn. (Lake Orion)	9 a.m.
1/4	Home	CC Quad	5:30 p.m.
1/9	Home	Tri-meet	5:30 p.m.
1/12	Home	CC Invite	9 a.m.
1/16	Away	Lake Orion	5 p.m.
1/19	Home	CC Super Duals	10 a.m.
1/24	Away	Tri-meet (AA Pioneer)	5 p.m.
1/26	Away	Observerland (Churchill)	9 a.m.
2/2	Away	Clash of the Counties (Clarkston)	9 a.m.
2/9	Away	CHSL Champ. (River. Gabriel Richard)	9 a.m.
2/14	Away	Team Districts	
2/16	Away	Indvid. Districts	

Bowling

12/4	@Novi	Wayne	3:30 p.m.
12/6	@Westland	Novi	3:30 p.m.
12/13	@Drakeshire	South Lyon	3:30 p.m.
12/15	@Drakeshire	Farm. Tourn.	9 a.m.
1/5	@Super Bowl	Ladywood Tourn.	Noon
1/9	@Sterling	U-D	3:30 p.m.
1/11	@Thunderbird	Bishop Foley	3:30 p.m.
1/12	@Cherry Hill	Crestwood Tourn.	TBA
1/18	@Thunderbird	De La Salle	3:30 p.m.
1/19	@Century	Oak. Cty.	TBA
1/23	@Cherry Hill	Brother Rice	3:30 p.m.
1/25	@Country	Clarenceville	3:30 p.m.
1/28	@Woodland	Divine Child	3:30 p.m.
1/30	@Sterling	U-D	3:30 p.m.
2/2	@Five Star	Tri-County	TBA
2/4	@Royal	Bishop Foley	3:30 p.m.
2/6	@Astro	De La Salle	3:30 p.m.
2/9	@Super Bowl	Jaeger Tourn.	TBA
2/11	@Woodland	Brother Rice	3:30 p.m.
2/14	@Drakeshire	Divine Child	3:30 p.m.
2/16	@Imperial	CHSL Tourn.	TBA
2/22	TBD	Team Regionals	
2/23	TBD	Ind. Regionals	

Northville Mustangs

Boys Basketball

11/29	Away	South Lyon	7 p.m.
12/6	Away	Novi	7 p.m.
12/11	Away	Salem	7 p.m.
12/13	Away	John Glenn	7 p.m.
12/18	Home	Churchill	7 p.m.
12/20	Away	Canton	7 p.m.
12/27	Away	Chelsea	TBA
12/28	Away	Chelsea	TBA
1/4	Home	Plymouth	7 p.m.
1/8	Away	Wayne Memorial	7 p.m.
1/11	Away	W.L. Western	7 p.m.
1/15	Home	Franklin	7 p.m.
1/18	Home	Canton	7 p.m.
1/22	Away	Plymouth	7 p.m.
1/25	Home	Wayne Memorial	7 p.m.
1/29	Home	W.L. Western	7 p.m.
2/1	Away	Franklin	7 p.m.
2/5	Away	WLAA Playoff	5:30 p.m.
2/8	Away	WLAA Playoff	7 p.m.
2/11	Away	WLAA Playoff	TBA
2/18	Away	Districts	7 p.m.

Girls Basketball

12/4	Away	South Lyon	7 p.m.
12/14	Away	Novi	7 p.m.
12/18	Away	Churchill	7 p.m
12/20	Home	Canton	7 p.m
12/27	Away	Chelsea	TBA
12/28	Away	Chelsea	TBA
1/4	Away	Plymouth	7 p.m
1/8	Home	Wayne Memorial	7 p.m
1/11	Home	W.L. Western	7 p.m
1/15	Away	Franklin	7 p.m
1/18	Away	Canton	7 p.m
1/22	Home	Plymouth	7 p.m
1/25	Away	Wayne Memorial	7 p.m
1/29	Away	W.L. Western	7 p.m
2/01	Home	Franklin	7 p.m
2/04	Away	Salem	7 p.m
2/07	Home	John Glenn	7 p.m
2/12	Away	WLAA Playoff	TBA
2/15	Away	WLAA Playoff	TBA
2/19	Away	WLAA Playoff	TBA
2/25	Away	Districts	TBA

Wrestling

11/28	Away	Hartland	5:30 p.m.
12/1	Away	Grand Blanc	9 a.m.
12/5	Home	Novi	6:30 p.m.
12/8	Home	Invitational	9 a.m.
12/12	Away	Wayne Memorial	TBA
12/19	Home	Canton	6:30 p.m.
1/5	Away	Canton	9 a.m.
1/5	Away	South Lyon	10 a.m.
1/10	Away	W.L. Western	6:30 p.m.
1/12	Away	Brighton	10 a.m.
1/17	Home	Memorial (Aux. Gym)	6:30 p.m.
1/19	Away	Stevenson	TBA
1/19	Away	John Glenn	9 a.m.
1/24	Away	Plymouth	6:30 p.m.
1/26	Away	Dexter	8 a.m.
1/26	Away	Fenton	8:30 a.m.
1/31	Home	Franklin	6:30 p.m.
2/2	Away	Novi	TBA
2/6	Away	WLAA Crossover	6:30 p.m.
2/9	Away	WLAA Conference	TBA
2/14	Home	Team Districts	TBA
2/16	Away	MHSAA Districts	TBA
2/23	Away	MHSAA Regionals	TBA
3/7	Away	MHSAA State Finals	TBA
3/8	Away	MHSAA State Finals	TBA

Hockey

11/30	Home	Livonia Churchill	7 p.m.
12/5	Away	Stevenson at Eddie Edger	6 p.m.
12/7	Home	Novi at Novi Ice Arena	6 p.m.
12/8	Away	W L Northern	6 p.m.
12/12	Home	W.L. Central	7 p.m.
12/14	Away	Plymouth at Compuware	7 p.m.
12/20	Home	Canton	7 p.m.
1/11	Home	Franklin	7 p.m.
1/15	Away	Stoney Creek	7 p.m.
1/17	Away	AA Pioneer at Ice Cube	7:45 p.m.
1/19	Home	Plymouth	6 p.m.
1/23	Away	Franklin at Eddie Edger	8 p.m.
1/26	Home	W.L. Western	3 p.m.
2/1	Away	W.L. Western at Lakeland Arena	8:20 p.m.
2/6	Away	Canton Artic Edge	8 p.m.
2/8	Away	Showcase Invite	TBA
2/9	Away	Showcase Invite	TBA
2/15	Away	East Kentwood	7:30 p.m.
2/16	Away	Grand Rapids CC	1:00 p.m.
2/19	Home	Waterford Mott	7 p.m.
2/20	Away	WLAA Crossover	TBA
2/26	Home	MHSAA Regionals	TBA
2/28	Home	MHSAA Regionals	TBA

Gymnastics

12/19	Away	Plymouth H.S.	7 p.m.
1/3	Away	Farmington	6 p.m.
1/10	Away	Brighton	7 p.m.
1/17	Away	Canton	7 p.m.
1/19	Away	Farmington	TBA
1/22	Away	Salem	6:30 p.m.
1/28	Away	Livonia Churchill	7 p.m.
2/2	Away	Canton	10 a.m.
2/4	Away	W.L. Central	7 p.m.
2/12	Away	Hartland	6:30 p.m.
2/21	Away	WLAA Conference	TBA
3/1	Away	MHSAA Regionals	TBA
3/7	Away	MHSAA State Finals	TBA
3/8	Away	MHSAA State Finals	TBA

Boys Swim and Dive

12/13	Home	Brother Rice	7 p.m.
12/15	Away	WLAA Relays	Noon
12/18	Home	Salem	7 p.m.
1/10	Home	Stevenson	7 p.m.
1/12	Away	Salem	Noon
1/17	Home	Canton	7 p.m.
1/19	Home	Northville Quad	Noon
1/22	Away	Novi	6 p.m.
1/24	Away	W.L. Western	7 p.m.
1/31	Home	Wayne Memorial	7 p.m.
2/7	Away	Plymouth	7 p.m.
2/8	Away	MISCA Meet	TBA
2/9	Away	MISCA Meet	TBA
2/14	Home	Franklin H.S.	7 p.m.
2/21	Away	Conf. Prelims	1 p.m.
2/22	Away	Conf. Prelims/Diving	2:30 p.m.
2/23	Away	Conference Finals	Noon
2/28	Home	Last Chance Meet	7 p.m.
3/4	Away	State Diving	TBA
3/7	Away	State Prelims	TBA
3/8	Away	State Finals	TBA

Pom Pon

1/19	Away	Regionals at Churchill	9 a.m.
2/10	Away	State Finals	TBA

Cheer

1/12	Away	Novi	TBA
1/19	Away	Brighton	9 a.m.
1/23	Away	Stevenson	6 p.m.
1/26	Home	Northville Invite	9 a.m.
1/30	Home	Franklin	7 p.m.
2/2	Away	S. gate Anderson	10 a.m.
2/4	Away	Wayne Memorial	6 p.m.
2/13	Home	W.L. Western	7 p.m.
2/20	Away	W.L. Central	7 p.m.
2/23	Home	WLAA Conference	9 a.m.
3/1	Away	MHSAA Regionals	TBA

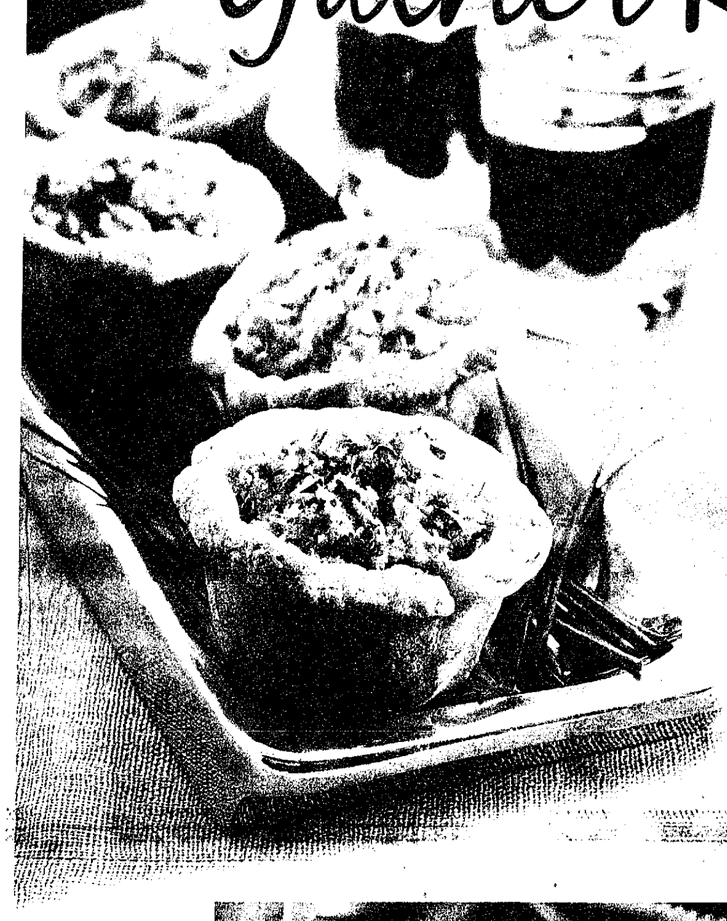
TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via **Story Chat** at novinews.com

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

MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, November 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Gather Round



FAMILY FEATURES

It's time to celebrate the season best shared with family and friends. Delicious recipes, which are surprisingly easy to make, will impress guests without keeping you tied to the kitchen. Add B. Smith's stylish entertaining ideas to the mix - then simply sit back and wait for the doorbell to ring!

"Entertaining shortcuts are a must, especially during the bustling holiday season," said B. Smith, national style expert, who also is a restaurant owner, cookbook author and radio host. "I'm a fan of quick scratch recipes that start with convenience products. All the makings for a memorable season are within reach with some planning, a little prep and a lot of fun!"

For more great holiday recipes, visit www.Pillsbury.com.

Deviled Crab and Cheese Biscuit Cups

This delightful appetizer recipe is popular with B. Smith's guests when she entertains at home.

- 3/4 cup whipped cream cheese spread (from 8-oz container)
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon red pepper sauce
- 1/4 cup finely shredded mild Cheddar cheese (1 oz)
- 2 tablespoons chopped green onions (2 medium)
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 cup garlic and herb bread crumbs
- 3 cans (6 oz each) white crabmeat, well drained
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 can (16.3 oz) Pillsbury Grands! Flaky Layers refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Spray 16 regular-size muffin cups with cooking spray.
2. In small bowl, mix cream cheese, lemon juice, pepper sauce, Cheddar cheese, green onions, paprika, bread crumbs, crabmeat and celery until well blended.
3. Separate dough into 8 biscuits; then peel in half to make 16 biscuits. Press or roll each into 5-inch round. Place 1 biscuit round in each muffin cup; firmly press in bottom and up side, forming 1/4-inch rim over edge of cup. Place 2 tablespoons crab mixture in bottoms of muffin cups.
4. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until filling is set and edges of biscuits are golden brown. Sprinkle each with chopped parsley; lightly press into filling. Remove biscuit cups from pan; serve immediately.

16 servings

High Altitude (3500 to 6500 ft): No change.

Brown Butter Creamy Apple Pie

B. Smith's best bet for holiday baking: jump-start your homebaked pies by choosing a convenient premade crust that comes ready to fill, bake and thrill!

- 1 Pillsbury Pet-Ritz frozen deep dish pie crust (from 12-oz package)

Filling

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 5 cups sliced peeled Granny Smith apples (5 medium)

Streusel

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup cold butter

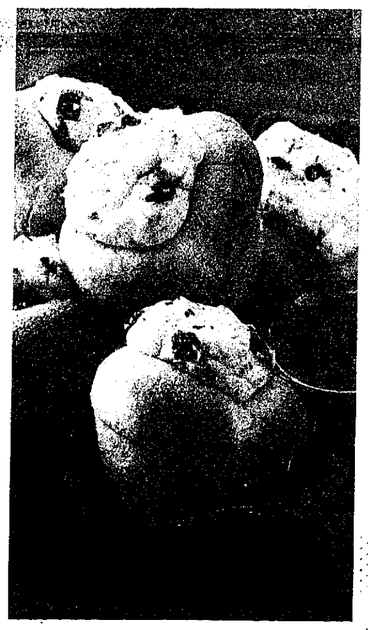
Topping

- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

1. Place cookie sheet on oven rack. Heat oven to 400°F.
2. In 1-quart saucepan, cook 1/4 cup butter over medium heat until melted and lightly browned, stirring constantly. Cool completely, about 15 minutes.
3. In large bowl, beat 1/2 cup granulated sugar and egg with wire whisk until light and fluffy. Beat in 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat in cooled butter. Gently stir in apples. Pour into frozen pie crust.
4. In medium bowl, stir together all streusel ingredients except butter. With pastry blender or fork, cut in 1/4 cup butter until mixture looks like coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over apples. Place pie on cookie sheet in oven.
5. Bake 20 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350°F, and cover edge of crust with strips of foil to prevent excessive browning. Bake 40 to 50 minutes longer or until apples are tender and crust is golden brown. Cool 2 hours.
6. In small bowl, beat whipping cream until soft peaks form. Add remaining topping ingredients; beat until stiff peaks form. Pipe or spoon onto pie.

8 servings

High Altitude (3500 to 6500 ft): In step 5, increase second bake time to 50 to 55 minutes.



Biscuit Bread Pudding

A rich, old-fashioned custard dessert is made simple with frozen biscuits.

- 12 Pillsbury Grands! frozen buttermilk biscuits (from 25-oz bag)
- 8 eggs
- 4 1/2 cups milk
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup raisins
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Caramel topping, warmed, if desired

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Bake biscuits as directed on bag. Cool completely, about 20 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, generously spray twelve 10-oz custard cups or twelve 4 1/2x1 1/4-inch disposable foil tart pans with cooking spray. In large bowl, beat eggs. Add milk, sugar, raisins, cinnamon and vanilla; mix well.
3. Cut baked biscuits into 1-inch cubes. Add to egg mixture; mix well. Let stand 5 minutes. Divide biscuit mixture evenly among custard cups.
4. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until set. With knife or metal spatula, loosen edges of each pudding; slide onto dessert plate. Drizzle with warm topping.

Timesaving Tip: Bake biscuits up to 2 days before preparing the pudding. After they have cooled, store in a sealed food-storage plastic bag at room temperature.

12 servings

High Altitude (3500 to 6500 ft): Follow High Altitude directions on bag when baking biscuits. Gradually stir 1/4 cup all-purpose flour into ingredients in step 2. Bake 25 to 30 minutes.

Garlic, Cheese and Tomato Bread Bites

Upgrade dinner rolls by filling them with a delicious cheese blend.

- 10 Pillsbury frozen soft white dinner rolls (from 12.4-oz bag)
- 1 container (6.5 oz) garlic-and-herbs spreadable cheese
- 1 tablespoon diced sundried tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon diced pitted kalamata olives
- 1 jar (8 oz) marinara sauce, warmed

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Remove rolls from bag; thaw 10 minutes. With thumb, make indentation in center of each roll.
2. In medium bowl, mix cheese, sundried tomatoes and olives. Place 1 tablespoon cheese mixture in each indentation. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.
3. Bake 12 to 17 minutes or until tops are light golden brown. Serve with warmed marinara sauce.

10 servings

High Altitude (3500 to 6500 ft): No change.

Holiday Hints

B. Smith, the maven of merriness, offers her top tips for the season:

Easy Elegance

At my restaurants, I love dressing up plated food with a fragrant spice or herb sprigs. This is easy to do at home, too. Lightly sprinkle cinnamon around individual plates of apple pie, and dust the whipped cream or ice cream à la mode. Use fresh herbs to add a splash of color and aroma. Chives, rosemary, tarragon and sage make lovely garnishes.

Candle-Berry Votives

Place 10 to 12 cranberries in clear glass votive candleholders. Fill them with tap water and top with a floating clear votive candle. Arrange these on the table and light them just before guests arrive. Look for votive holders in varying sizes and colors to match your table setting.

Wise Timesavers

Hosts know every minute counts, so I like to make the most of convenience products when streamlining. Pillsbury Frozen Dinner Rolls are favorite timesavers that deliver restaurant-quality flavor and texture. They store well in the freezer and can arrive hot from the oven to your table in eight easy minutes.

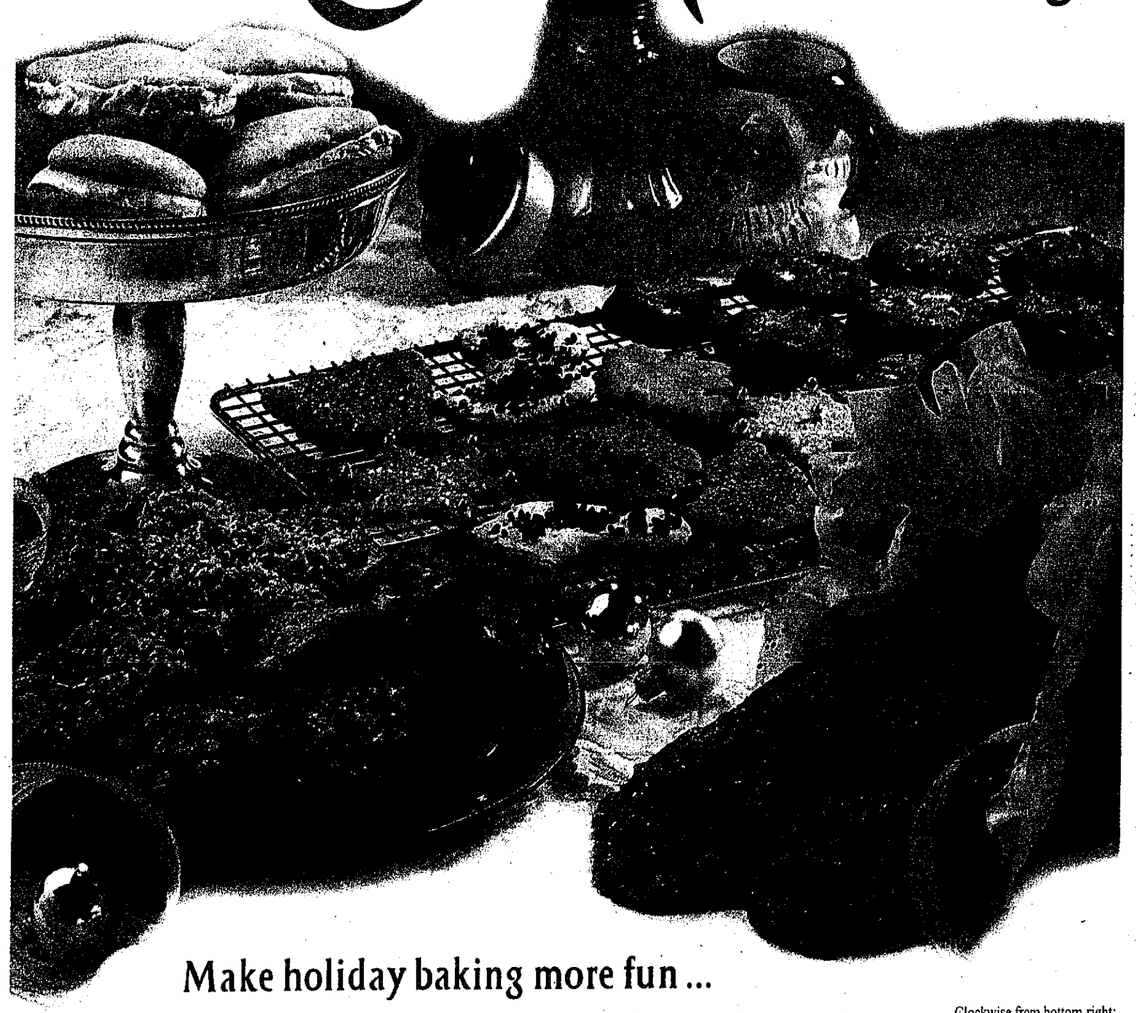
TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via **Story Chat** at novinews.com

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

MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Thursday, November 29, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Holiday Cookie Exchange



Make holiday baking more fun ... host a cookie exchange!

Clockwise from bottom right: *Oatmeal Lace Cookies, Chocolate Gingerbread Cookies, Maple Almond Bars, Maple Cream Sandwich Cookies, Ginger Maple Cutout Cookies*

FAMILY FEATURES

Invite some friends to bring one dozen of their favorite holiday cookie for each invitee, plus more to nibble on at the party. Have containers ready so your guests can take an assortment of bar, drop, sandwich and cutout cookies home.

Make your own cookies stand out when you use the secret ingredients favored by both home bakers and chefs — molasses and pure maple syrup, both 100 percent all-natural, pure sweeteners. Molasses complements chocolate, nuts and spices, and gives cookies that irresistible "I-can't-eat-just-one" homemade taste. Use pure maple syrup in place of refined sugar: For each 1 cup sugar, substitute 3/4 to 1 1/2 cups maple syrup, then remove 2 to 4 tablespoons milk, water or other liquid in the recipe.

For more recipes and information, visit www.grandmasmolasses.com and www.maplegrove.com.

Maple Cream Sandwich Cookies

- 3/4 cup sugar (Maple Grove Maple Sugar is preferable)
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup Maple Grove Pure Maple Syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine sugar, butter and egg. Mix in milk, syrup and vanilla. Add flour, baking powder and salt. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto lightly greased baking sheet or ungreased parchment paper. Bake about 12 minutes. "Paste" 2 cookies together with Filling or make "Sandwiches" using ice cream slices between cookies and freeze.

FILLING: Mix together 3/4 cup pure maple syrup, 3/4 cup marshmallow fluff, 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar and 2 tablespoons butter.

Yield: 16+ sandwich cookies, depending upon size

Chocolate Gingerbread Cookies

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 8 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger or 1 teaspoon ground
- 1/2 cup Grandmas Original or Robust Molasses
- 4 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 6 ounces chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 1/4 cup crushed peppermint candy canes

Sift flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking soda and cocoa together. Set aside. Cream butter and ginger until light. Stir in molasses and 2 tablespoons sugar. Gradually add flour mixture into butter mixture. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts. Wrap dough in plastic and refrigerate at least 1 hour. Heat oven to 325°F. Roll 1 tablespoon dough into ball with palms and flatten into disks. Dip in crushed candy canes and remaining 2 tablespoons sugar. Place 2 inches apart on baking sheet. Bake 15 minutes. Cool.

Yield: 2 dozen

Maple Almond Bars

Crust

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 egg, at room temperature
- 3 cups unbleached or all-purpose flour

Topping

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 3/4 cup Maple Grove Pure Maple Syrup
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 2 cups chopped almonds
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

CRUST: Lightly grease 10- by 15-inch jellyroll pan and set aside. Preheat oven to 375°F.

Cream butter and sugar in large bowl. When light, beat in egg. Add flour, about 1/2 cup at a time, working it in with wooden spoon. Divide dough into four pieces and put one piece in each quadrant of jellyroll pan.

Push dough into pan with floured hands, forming a seamless crust. Keep it as even as possible and work it up sides to top of rim. Cover with plastic and chill 15 minutes. Poke dough 3 or 4 times with fork, then bake 15 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Mix a tiny amount of flour and water together to make thick paste and rub a little into fork holes to close them up.

TOPPING: After crust has cooled about 20 minutes, melt butter in large saucepan. Add maple syrup, brown sugar and honey, bring to a boil. When it boils, add cream and bring back to a boil. Boil 2 minutes. Quickly remove from heat and stir in almonds and vanilla. Pour evenly over crust and bake 20 minutes. It will bubble and darken somewhat. Cool thoroughly on wire rack, cut into bars.

Yield: 2 to 3 dozen bars

Oatmeal Lace Cookies

- 8 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup Grandma's Original Molasses
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup quick or old-fashioned oats
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 375°F. Melt butter in saucepan. Remove from heat; stir in milk, molasses and vanilla. Sift together sugar, flour, baking powder and salt. Blend into milk mixture. Stir in oats and nuts. Drop by level teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart on greased cookie sheet. Bake 6 to 8 minutes. Cool.

Yield: 6 dozen cookies

Ginger Maple Cutout Cookies

- 2/3 cup vegetable shortening
- 1/3 cup (5 1/3 tablespoons) butter, softened
- 1 cup Maple Grove Pure Maple Syrup, at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon Grandma's Original Molasses
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 4 cups unbleached or whole-wheat flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Cream together shortening and butter in large bowl. Gradually beat in maple syrup, molasses and vanilla. Mix flour, baking soda, salt, ginger, cloves and nutmeg and work them into creamed mixture about 1 cup at a time. Using floured hands, divide dough in half and wrap each half in plastic; flatten each into a disk. Chill at least 2 hours.*

Preheat oven to 350°F and lightly grease baking sheet or line with ungreased parchment paper. Roll dough out, one half at a time, onto sheet of waxed paper, to a little less than 1/4 inch thick. Cut into desired shapes, transfer to baking sheet, and bake 8 to 10 minutes, until bottoms are golden. Cool briefly on sheet, transfer to wire rack to finish cooling. Decorate as desired.

Yield: Varies

*It is important to chill dough at least 2 hours before rolling, otherwise it will be difficult to handle.

NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

Home Owners Do You Know...
HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY HEALTH IN YOUR HOME?
RADON – A SILENT KILLER

Home Owners are Urged to Test Homes for Radon, the Second Leading Cause of Lung Cancer

Novi Michigan — Pillar To Post is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a nationwide campaign to educate Americans about the dangers of radon exposure and to encourage them to take action to protect their homes and families.

Randall Patterson

In our community, **Randall Patterson of Pillar To Post** is conducting **Radon Testing for homes** during the National Radon Action Awareness Program in December and January.

Radon is present at elevated levels in many of **South East Michigan** homes *(info available from your state radon office)*. Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless, tasteless gas that is dispersed in outdoor air, but which can reach harmful levels when trapped in buildings. Scientists have long been concerned about the health risks of radon, but never before has there been such overwhelming proof that exposure to elevated levels of radon causes lung cancer in humans.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that radon is responsible for more than 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S., after smoking, and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. However, because you can't see or smell radon, people tend to downplay the health effects and ignore the possibility that there might be a silent killer in their homes.

Testing homes for elevated levels of radon is simple and inexpensive. Radon test kits can be purchased or directly from radon testing companies. Pillar To Post also offers a Continuous Radon Monitor (CRM) Report that provides an hour by hour measurement for the levels of Radon in your home. Radon problems can be fixed by qualified contractors for a cost similar to that of many common home repairs such as painting or having a new water heater installed.

Randall Patterson of Pillar To Post urges *all Southeast Michigan* residents to take action during this year's National Radon Action Awareness Program, by testing their homes for levels of radon. Radon poses a serious threat to our community's health but there is a straightforward solution. For more information on radon, radon testing and mitigation, call Randall Patterson at Pillar To Post, (248) 755-3422 or visit our Web site at ww.PTPhome.com/westoaklandlivingston or visit EPA's National Radon Action Month Web site at

www.epa.gov/radon/nram.

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

CALL US TO HAVE YOUR HOME TESTED FOR ELEVATED LEVELS OF RADON TO ENSURE YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH AND PROTECTION.

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

Pillar to post

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

For additional information please visit our web site at www.ptphome.com/westoaklandlivingston

We provide professional home inspections and home environmental testing services for Radon, Mold, Pest, Well & Septic, Air & Water Quality testing.

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Photos by JOHN R. HALL

The physicians on staff at the Medical Clinic of Northville include, from left, Dr. Marc Helzer, Dr. Marcus Koss, Dr. Cheryl Johnstone and Dr. Ross Summers.

Services, hours set Northville clinic apart

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

Its familiar façade has been a regular part of Northville's medical community for 19 years. Just as it welcomes visitors to Northville at its location on South Main Street, the Medical Clinic of Northville has been welcoming patients of all ages to its family and internal medicine practice with experienced, caring physicians, complete testing procedures and medical labs, and convenient hours.

The facility is more than just an active part of the neighborhood and surrounding community. It is a vibrant, full service office where four physicians have their own individual practices and where generations of patients have formed close bonds with the familiar staff members, some who have worked since the building opened in the early 80s.

The Medical Clinic of Northville is an extension of the practice started in Northville, more than 80 years ago, by Russell E. Atchison, M.D., and carried on starting in 1938 by his son Russell M. Atchison, M.D., who continued practicing medicine until 2001 at the age of 91 at the Medical Clinic of Northville.

"A blending of modern medicine and homeopathy has defined the character of this practice since its inception," Dr. Ross Summers said. "Today's patients are becoming increasingly educated on the various options available in health prevention and treatment. Our physicians encourage full patient involvement in this process."

These same patients have also told the staff of the Medical Clinic of Northville that they would like more convenient hours for their appointments or walk-in visits. The staff listened — and responded.

"We started asking our patients if they would like to come in before they went to work and they said yes," said office manager Susan Houle. "So we opened our office at 6 a.m. during the week last May. The early hours have become very popular."

MEDICAL CLINIC OF NORTHVILLE

308 S. Main Street, Northville

Phone
(248) 349-1900

Hours
6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Monday Through Friday

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Saturday

Not only does the Medical Clinic of Northville have early morning hours during the week, it also has convenient late hours, too. The facility is open until 7:30 p.m. on weeknights and from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Having a large staff of physicians, coupled with extended hours, means that most patients can schedule same-day appointments while getting the best care.

"This is a direct physician care facility," Dr. Marcus Koss said. "For a smaller community like this, it is important to have an established practice like ours."

Convenient hours with experienced physicians are not the only reasons why patient care is such a high priority — the number of available services is important, too.

These services include x-ray, ultrasound (standard, vascular and cardiac), nuclear medicine (cardiac and non-cardiac) and stress testing. Lab testing is available thanks to the on-site staff of Quest Diagnostics.

Office manager Susan Houle, left, and the experienced and caring staff keep The Medical Clinic of Northville running smoothly for doctors and patients.

"The types of different testing we offer make us unique for a family practice," Susan said. Susan is one of a handful of employees (22 on staff) that have been with the Medical Clinic of Northville for over 20 years. "Our staff is very dedicated to our work and our patients."

The staff knows the importance of giving back to the Northville community, too. Staffers have worked at the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Open House, Northville Seniorfest, and the Forrester Marathon. The Medical Clinic of Northville also participates with Northville Civic Concern during its hat and glove drive each winter.

"It is important to give back to the community and it is our way of saying thank you for their support," Dr. Cheryl Johnstone said.

The four physicians on staff — board certified and trained in the U.S. — include:

- Cheryl Johnstone, M.D. Internal Medicine; Wright University
- Marcus Koss, M.D. Family Medicine; Wayne State University
- Ross Summers, M.D. Family Medicine; Michigan State University
- Marc Helzer, M.D. Family Medicine; University of Michigan

For more information on the Medical Clinic of Northville, located at 308 S. Main St. (just south of the curve and waterwheel), call (248) 349-1900 or walk-in.

The staff looks forward to seeing new faces welcoming back returning patients.

Early Morning & Saturday Hours

Mon.–Fri. 6a.m. to 7:30p.m., Sat. 9a.m. to 2:30p.m.

Medical Clinic of Northville

Primary & Urgent Care In Your Neighborhood

- Most Major Insurances Accepted
- Appointments, Walk-Ins & Urgent Care
- X-Rays, Lab, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine & Cardiac Care
- Family Practice & Internal Medicine

308 South Main Street
(across from Chamber Office)
248-349-1900

Ross Summers MD — Michigan State University
Marcus Koss MD — Wayne State University
Cheryl Johnstone MD — Wright State University
Marc Helzer MD — University of Michigan

Board Certified Physicians