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Thursday, June 8, 2006

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Volume 51 Number 1

Novi, Michigan

INSIDE



Dip in, Novi!

After more than a year in the making, the Melting Pot celebrated its grand opening yesterday, offering customers a full menu of fondué delights.

— Page 9A

Survey says...

Joe Kapelczak, the surveyor in charge of measuring Oakland County, said his eight-member team has verified 3,300 out of 4,000 corner markers and expects to finish its work by 2011.

— Page 8A

THIS WEEKEND

Funny guy

Stand-up comedian Sean Kent, featured on seasons one and three of the TV show "Last Comic Standing," is coming to Wise Guys Comedy Club in Novi for four shows, starting tonight.

— 20A

OBITUARY

Willed "Bill" Fear, 73

— 11A

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CONTACT US

Novi News
104 W. Main
Northville, MI 48167

Classifieds: (888) 999-1288

Newsroom: (248) 349-1700

Fax: (248) 349-9832

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Pearson picked as manager

■ Three council members thought second interviews should be done

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Clay Pearson was elected Novi's new city manager in a controversial 4-3 vote by city council in a special meeting last Thursday. "I feel very honored," Pearson said. "I'm looking forward to the

next chapter in Novi's history and continuing a lot of the good stuff that's been going on in Novi."

Mayor David Landry, Mayor Pro Tem Kim Capello and Council Members Bob Gatt and Terry Margolis voted in favor of naming him the new CEO of the city.

Council Members Andrew March, Tom Rogy and Lynne Paul did not support Gatt's motion. Tom Schultz, city attorney, will draft a contract with city council's input outlining Pearson's salary and benefits. If Pearson approves the contract, it can be finalized with four votes by city council.



Clay Pearson

■ New chamber welcomes new city manager at Wed. luncheon

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Members of the new Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce will welcome Clay Pearson, new city manager, at their first luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bamboo Club Restaurant at Fountain Walk Shopping Center.

Registration and networking are planned from 11:30 a.m. to noon, with lunch served at noon. Cost of the luncheon is \$15. Karrie Duan, general manager of the Bamboo Club, is sponsoring the event.

Mayor David Landry will introduce the special guest speaker, Pearson.

Whitney McClellan, executive director of the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce, said she is excited about the upcoming luncheon and the fact that the organization is growing so quickly.

"We already have about 45 members," McClellan said. "I

continued on page 3

Water, sewer rates to increase

■ Average bills to rise \$40/year

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Water and sewer rates are going up for Novi residents, but probably not enough to break their budgets.

"There hasn't been an increase in the rates since 1999.

The Detroit Water & Sewer Department, increased its fee by 3.1 percent per thousand gallons for Novi customers.

However, Detroit does not maintain the water lines so Novi must pick up another 1.65 percent cost increase, leaving residents with a 5.75 percent overall increase per thousand gallons.

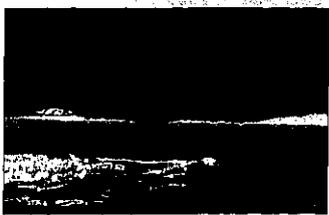
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Splash splash

Tom Tresik splashes around in the cool waters of Walled Lake with his daughter Nicole, 3, during a Tuesday afternoon visit to Novi's North Lakeshore Park. The temperature last Tuesday reached the upper 80s.

Oh, deer! Animal breaks through window, swims in pool



Debbie and Larry Knurek's pool had a unique swimmer Saturday when a deer took a 30-minute dip.

■ Deer busts through fence, escapes before police arrive

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Nature came to call Saturday morning, at two Novi homes, when a deer broke through one family's front window and ended up in the swimming pool of another.

Laurie Carolyn said she and her

husband, Bill Carolyn, were asleep upstairs around 9:30 a.m. Saturday when they suddenly heard the sound of shattering glass and a galloping noise. Laurie Carolyn naturally assumed it was two of her five children fighting.

"I said (to my husband) 'Go take care of them before I kill them,'" she said.

Just moments later, they heard more glass shattering. "We both lit out of our bedroom ready to scream at them," Laurie said. "I'm used to blood, I have five kids. I'm not the type of person to freak."

However, she said she was def-

initely not prepared for what she saw when she came down the stairs: bloody shards of shattered glass strewn about the house, two broken windows, blood everywhere, six neighbors in the front yard staring into the house, and her 14-year-old son, Nathan, holding that a deer had broken through the front bay window and then exited by breaking through another window.

"I'm still kind of in shock," Laurie said. "It was a very sick way to wake up on a Saturday morning."

continued on page 2

Shannon Janes enjoys seniors, camping

■ Senior center clerk has worked 26 years for city

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

"Enjoy life now, because time goes fast.

That's one lesson Shannon Janes said she has learned in her five years of working as an accounts clerk at the Novi Senior Center. It's words of wisdom like that from seniors — along with their humor and interesting stories — that help make her job enjoy-

able, she said.

"I love working with the seniors," Janes said. "The interaction is wonderful."

At the senior center, Janes works behind the counter, performing tasks like helping seniors sign up for the many programs, trips and activities the center offers.

"We have a lot of stuff that goes on here," Janes said. "We have a huge senior center. We try to keep them busy."

Years with the city

Janes has worked for the City of Novi for 26 years. She started

at age 16, while she was still a student at Novi High School. The school and the city offered a co-op program that allowed Janes to spend two years working for the department of parks and recreation. She said she worked behind the desk, performing clerical duties.

When she graduated from high school in 1983, Janes took a full-time position with the city's building department. After two years, she transferred back to parks and recreation before starting at the senior center five years ago, when it was moved to its current location.

continued on page 3

Photo by Matt Doran/Novi News

Novi Senior Center account clerk Shannon Janes has worked at the senior for five years and has been a city employee for 26 years, starting in the high school co-op program at age 16.

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Deer busts through fence, escapes before police arrive

continued from front page

Laurie said Nathan was sitting in the house when the deer suddenly smashed through the window, rolled on the floor, stood up and approached him. In an unmitigated moment of teenagehood, Nathan asked the deer, "Hey dude, what's up?"

The deer stood at Nathan for a minute or two, Laurie said, before breaking through another window in her house and taking off. She is currently working with her insurance company to pay for damage to several tables, two lamps, a couch, two easy chairs and a TV and DVD/VCR player.

A duck and a deer

Debbie and Larry Knarek were in their pajamas watering plants in the backyard of their home when their morning was interrupted by a harbinger of things to come: a female duck landed in their 20 by 30 foot in-ground pool.

Larry threw a rubber ring at the duck to show it away, prompting Debbie to make a sarcastic comment along the lines of "Oh, that'll scare it away."

Seconds later, Larry watched as the renegade deer who had just trashed the Carolyn's house jumped his fence, landed on the patio and hopped into the pool. Debbie was facing the other way and didn't see what had happened, so without missing a beat, Larry asked casually, "What do you want me to do about this deer in the pool?" Turning to look, Debbie was shocked.

"It was like, 'Oh my God, there really is a deer in the pool,'" she said.

Debbie frantically called neighbors and told them something was in the pool. Thinking there had been a throwing, they got dressed and hurried over, and arrived to find the Knareks in their pajamas, trying to evict a deer from their swimming pool with a broom.

A half-hour swim

For roughly 30 minutes, Debbie said the deer swam around the pool, using a "demonic paddle." A neighbor finally grabbed the deer by the rear and gave it a push up out of the pool. At some point during the process, Larry was kicked by the animal.

"You can see the claw marks on his leg," Debbie said.

The neighbors were told the deer bolted for the neighbor who had pushed it out of the pool, went over and petted it, trying to calm it.

However, Debbie thinks the neighbor must have accidentally touched one of the deer's wounds, because it suddenly jumped up and bolted away again. This time, it stuck its nose in the fence and pried it apart. Wiggling through, the deer disappeared.

Minutes later, the Novi Police Department appeared at the scene, having come from the Carolyn's house.

Average bills to rise \$40/year

continued from front page

"It's not an administrative cost, it's the maintenance of the water and sewer lines," said Sheryl Walsh, community relations director.

The average resident who has average water usage will see only a \$40 a year increase in their water and sewer bill or less than \$4 a month.

Residents will not see the rate increase appear on their bill until August, as the new rates don't take effect until July 1.

City council members approved the 2006-2007 rates at Monday night's meeting.

One of the reasons the Detroit Water & Sewer Department has had to pass along double-digit increases recently is because of the lack of reserves for maintenance and replacement of the system.

Novi's Water & Sewer Fund should be healthy enough to avoid this situation in the future. The current rate structure and cash reserves have created a sound financial picture for the city's Water & Sewer Fund not just for the current fiscal year but also for years to come.

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

"They told me, 'She'll be fine; she'll just go find a place to lay down and die,'" Debbie said. "I'm a real animal lover, so I felt pretty bad about that comment."

And what did her husband think?

"He just thinks it's the funniest thing," Debbie said.

Deer versus house

Lieutenant Keith Woolinton of the Novi Police Department said most deer-related accidents in the area involved automobiles, not houses. He thought perhaps the deer did not recognize the Carolyn's window as such, mistaking it for an opening of some sort.

"But that's just a guess on my part," he said.

The deer had cuts on its nose and leg, Woolinton said. Laurie Carolyn said her son identified it as a buck, with small horns just peeking through the surface of its head. Debbie Knarek said it was a doe, about 5 feet tall. Woolinton did not say whether the deer was charged with a crime.

The incident is the second in months in which a wild animal has crashed through a window of a Novi home. In April, Woolinton said a man returned home from dinner with his wife to find wild turkey feathers scattered in his house and one of his windows broken.

"I feel really bad about the way we're crowding our animals out," she said. "These animals don't know where to go. They come into my pool and they swim around."

The recent incident made the Channel 4 news Saturday, and Laurie said a friend has threatened to erect a "Deer Crossing" sign on her front lawn.

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Three council members thought second interviews should be done

continued from front

If he requests a more attractive package, that would require approval by five votes, according to Landry.

The three dissenting voters wanted council to conduct a second round of interviews with the top two or three candidates. They felt Pearson was not the strongest candidate as he did not have the experience of the other candidates.

"One interview for a \$120,000 position doesn't seem enough," Paul said.

Pearson's annual salary has been \$105,489, plus an extra \$242.64 each pay period during his time as interim city manager since Rick Helwig, former city manager, retired in February. Helwig's salary was \$118,109 at his retirement.

Meet the new city manager

What:
When:
Where:
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Cost:
Contact:

"I think this is the most important decision that this council will make," Nagy said. "I want to be able to compare the top two. I think this is way too important for just one interview."

Mayor approves

Landry said he sees Pearson as vibrant, respectful and considerate.

"He has knocked my socks off since he left Rick Helwig's shadow," Landry said.

Pearson said he won't dwell on the fact that he was voted in by such a narrow margin.

"I know the community and the people," he said. "I have a high confidence and comfort level. The majority of council has made its decision, and I look forward to working with everybody. I do have a track record in the community. I don't have to spend two years trying to get to know people. It's a question of building what we've done already."

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New chamber welcomes new city manager at Wed. luncheon

continued from front

"We think their recognition and support is important. I'm proud to be a part of a new organization that will be a true asset for businesses and have a positive impact on the greater Novi community."

Golf outing slated next month

A golf outing is also scheduled July 12 at the Links of Novi. The event will be an 18-hole scramble and cost \$96 per golfer. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. The event will include special competition holes, lunch at the turn and a steak dinner, raffle and door prizes following golf.

J. R. Atych, co-chair and one of the founding members of the new chamber, graciously offered to combine the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing with his company outing.

Send completed registration forms and checks to The Greater Novi Chamber, 43390 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI, 48375. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for the golf outing.

At the new chamber's first after-hours mixer May 11, about 120 people came to the Dirty Martini Lounge.

"The energy in the room was just amazing," McClellan said.

GNCC board selected

Co-chairs of the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce executive board are Gina Rodowski of Land's Upholstery and Window Treatments and J. R. Atych, CPA, Financial Planning and Investments, Inc.

Dean Gauthier, Suburban Imports, serves as vice chair; Sean Sant, Viroch Krause & Co., was selected as treasurer; and Terri Hayash, Andiamo, has been named secretary.

Directors include Todd Sato, Comerica Bank; Keith White, Intoville Mortgage Co.; Gene Brady, Bro. Advancing; Andy Nofar, Novi Fine Wine & Pizza; Mervylus; John Cain, SIS, Inc.; Tim Herrington, Keford Collision; and Deag Kelly, Clark Hill, P.L.C.

Anyone who would like to become a member of the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce can call the office at (248) 347-4622.

The new chamber's Web site, which should be up and running in about a month, will be www.greternoviclamber.com.

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A look at Novi's new city leader

Pearson says he's ready for the task

By Pam Fleming

STAFF WRITER

Novi's new city manager, Clay Pearson, says he's ready to take the helm.

The 35-year-old, who has lived in Novi since 2000, believes his experience in Novi and before that in Elgin, Ill., will serve him well in his new position.

A graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., in 1990, Pearson received his undergraduate degree in economics with minors in geography and political science.

He went on to earn a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas in Lawrence in 1992.

Pearson also attended a Management Excellence Program in 1996 and a Senior Executive Institute in 1999 at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

After graduate school he served as an administrative intern for a year in Johnson County, Kan., and was assistant to the city manager in Elgin from 1991-1994.

For a year after that he served as budget director and was responsible for operating and capital budgets totaling \$114 million at the time.

From 1995-1998 he was director, Department of Code Administration & Neighborhood Affairs for the city of Elgin.

In this role, he directed a major city department that tackled neighborhood blights, historic preservation, zoning enforcement, property maintenance.

In his spare time, Pearson is a marathon runner, with his most recent race in Ottawa, Ontario.

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

Senior center clerk has worked 26 years for city

continued from front

on Meadowbrook Road.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "That's why I'm still here. I like my job. It's a great staff."

Good co-workers

James enjoys her co-workers at the senior center. She is "the quiet one," she said. She also generally shares the same location as the Meadowbrook Community senior residential facility, but James emphasized that activities at the center are not just for residents. They are open to all seniors. Events often sell out, she said.

Good schools, community and people

After growing up in Novi, James moved to Westland when she married her husband, David. The couple have two children, a 10-year-old daughter and a son who is 13, and will mark their 18th anniversary this year.

Keeping busy

James said she still loves Novi because of the "good schools, good community and good people."

"Novi is still my hometown," James said. "Meadowbrook Road was dirt when I moved in."

Shannon James

How you know her: She has worked for the City of Novi for 26 years. She currently mans the front desk at the Novi Senior Center.

Family: She and her husband, David, will mark their 18th anniversary this year. They have two children, a 10-year-old daughter and a son who is 13, and will mark their 18th anniversary this year.

Hobbies: James is an avid camper. Her family likes their fifth wheel to destinations around the state. She hopes to try camping in South Carolina or Florida in the future.

Quote: "I love working with the seniors," James said. "The interaction is wonderful."

James said she also loves animals. Over the Memorial Day weekend, her family camped at a park in Monroe, marking the

first time they took their 6-month-old "sylvio" dog" camping with the family's older Labrador, James said.

That was interesting camping with them," she said.

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

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COMMUNITY

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novinews.com fax (248) 349-9822

NOVI CHORALAIRES: Hitting all the right notes

Community chorus brings harmony area

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

You just might say they provide the soundtrack of Novi.

For more than 30 years, the Novi Choralaires, a local community chorus, has serenaded Novi with its "easy-listening" four-part harmonies. Founded in 1975, second vice president Margie Shaul said the group falls under the umbrella of Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry, although much of its funding is private.

The group draws members from across the area, including many from Novi. Members bond through their common interest in music, said director Janet Wassilak.

"I try to keep a fairly high standard because that's what people want," she said. "We try to do a high quality program."

The Choralaires perform in December, February and August. In December, they sing Christmas cards on two Saturdays at the Novi Town Center. They also give three performances of a Christmas concert for the community, which second vice president Margie Shaul said includes accompaniment by a handbell quartet.

"Much of it is sacred (music at the Christmas concert)," Shaul said. "It is unusual for a community chorus to tackle sacred music. The fact that there are not

Who are they?

The Novi Choralaires is a community choir which holds concerts for Christmas, Valentine's Day, and in the spring. Auditions are held each September and are required for group membership.

Visit www.novi-choralaires.org for more information.

many opportunities to hear it is a plus for us."

In February, the group performs love songs in celebration of Valentine's Day, at Meadowbrook Commons senior center.

"It's a popular show with the seniors," Shaul said.

The spring concert, held in May before Mother's Day each year, is the group's biggest production. It includes songs, makeup and stage lighting, adding an interesting visual aspect to the music, Shaul said.

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"If they like to sing and are willing to put some time into it, I'd like to have them audition," Wassilak said.

Shaul said she has been involved with the Choralaires since 1980, when a friend recruited her. Members range in age from people in their 20s into their 80s, she said.

"I was just completely blown away by the amount of creativity I was rubbing up against every week."

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was rubbing up against every week," Shaul said. "It was electric. It was amazing."

"You couldn't ask for a nicer group of people," she said. "There is a rush when you perform. It's just fun."

Wassilak said most of the group's more than 30 members have a background in choral music, although she has noticed that young people these days are less interested in group performances. She said popular culture, such as the TV show "American Idol," tends to glorify individual performers.

Wassilak said potential members need to be able to sing their own part, because teaching them the harmony is too difficult. If they can't sight-read music, she said, they "have to have a pretty good ear to compensate for that."

"If they like to sing and are willing to put some time into it, I'd like to have them audition," Wassilak said.

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Portage Mayor Peter Straszak, right, and Novi Mayor David Landry listen to Novi Police Chief David Molloy, left, as he describes some of the steps his department has taken to become more independent and functional in case of blackouts. The visit to the Novi Police station was part of a mayor's exchange day.

Visitors from Portage see Novi as upscale, thriving community

Travelers enjoy trip to No. 6 city

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi city leaders hosted a group from Portage last week, and according to comments from the visitors, they liked what they saw.

The all-day event May 25 was the second part of the two cities' Mayor's Exchange. Novi leaders went to Portage May 17.

Portage Council Member Chandice Reid, who officers who made the trip, was amazed by the number of similarities between Novi and Portage. These included

the top retail both municipalities offer as well as highway and traffic issues. Both communities have also been working hard on economic development, Reid said, and are grappling with fast-paced development.

As for differences between the two cities, Reid noticed that housing is more expensive in Novi.

"Novi's upper-end housing is higher than ours," she said. "You get more house for the dollar as the west side."

Other visitors from Portage included Mayor Peter Straszak, Mayor Pro Tem Ted Vitek, City Manager Marvin Evans, Director of Parks & Recreation, Bill Deming, and Council Members Ed Sackley and Terry Urban.

Several of the Portage visitors liked the idea of a youth council,

which Novi just recently started. Straszak said he was most impressed with the level of communication between the city and its residents.

"We don't have a group of homeowners associations like Novi does that can serve as a pipeline of information," Straszak said. "This community is in touch with its citizenry and presents a model for other cities to follow."

Urban said he would like to see Portage develop a downtown area similar to Main Street Novi.

"Novi's got a lot of things going, and it's pretty obvious that things are being managed well," Vitek said. "It's a beautiful city."

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Novi Rotary members prepare for 21st Charity Golf Outing

Funds will go to many causes

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Get your golf clubs cleaned and your golf shoes shined.

The 21st Annual Novi Rotary Charity Golf Outing is set for next Thursday at Oak Pointe Country Club in Brighton.

The 18-hole scramble begins at 10 a.m. with a shotgun start. Arrange a foursome, or sign up as a single and Rourians will

match you up with other individual golfers.

Range balls, lunch and dinner are included in the \$140 per golfer entry fee or \$560 per foursome.

The event will feature an auction during which such items as a week's vacation at the Orange Lake Golf & Country Club in Orlando, Fla., will go to the highest bidder.

Tico "TJ" Duckett, a star Michigan State University running back in the 1990s, will be a special guest at the tournament.

Golfers can also enter to win \$5,000 in a putting contest,

Registration details

To register for the outing, call Gary Kober at (248) 478-4977 or visit www.novirotary.org for a downloadable registration form.

Send completed registration forms to Kober at Novi Rotary, P.O. Box 153, Novi, MI, 48376.

Checks should be made payable to the Novi Rotary Foundation.

A contribution of \$1,000

courtesy of Bob Sellers Planning/GMC of Farmington Hills.

A raffle will offer prizes such as a complete set of custom golf clubs, golf bag and head covers, courtesy of Golf Tech in Novi, and a round of golf at Oak Pointe Country Club.

Sponsors still needed

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For \$100, an individual or group can be a Hole Sponsor.

A contribution of \$1,000

makes the donor a Silver Sponsor.

A donation of \$2,000 elevates a person or business to a Gold Sponsor, and \$5,000 lifts the Platinum Sponsor level. Funds are designated for specific charitable programs.

Telecom Credit Union in Novi has agreed to be a Platinum Sponsor and will help fund a new Youth Edibles character training program for about 350 freshmen at Novi High School.

"We've never done this before and as far as I know no other Rotary Club anywhere has done

something like this," said Todd Lockhart, incoming president.

Other sponsors include Providence Hospital, National City Bank and DirectBuy of Farmington Hills.

Proceeds will also go to the Jaipur Foot and Orthopedic Appliance Project, scholarships for Novi students, a Veterans Recognition Lunch and more.

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

Will Ukrainian orphan be coming to Novi?

Teacher looks for local support

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Carlyn Chaney is hoping the community will help her bring a 7-year-old Ukrainian orphan home to Novi for the summer.

"It's just a wonderful place to be and I feel I could come to my community for support and to bring a little girl here to enjoy Novi," said Chaney, a second grade teacher at Parkview Elementary School, who grew up in Novi.

Chaney is hoping donors will help her raise \$2,000 to help cover travel and insurance expenses to bring the orphan - Julia - to the United States towards the end of June, for a five week stay.

The visit will be a trial period, Chaney said, so if Julia fits in well with her family, which includes her husband and their son Joey, who is 7 years old. She and her husband will pick up Julia in New York, where she will arrive with a group of east European orphans, and drive her back at the end of the five week period. Julia will then return to Ukraine.

"It's so complicated," Chaney said. "You have to learn about it and know what you're doing. It's tricky. I was optimistic as I kept researching."

Many children are orphaned in eastern Europe, Chaney said. "It's a very sad situation. In the region, so many children are orphaned because of the war."

"We wanted more children, she needs a family," she said. "I love the idea that it's an adventure."

Expanding the family

Chaney said she and her husband want more children, but have been unable to have more of their own. She started thinking about adoption when she saw a newspaper article on a man who had adopted a girl.

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Bowman pitches cleanup, new development off of Dixon Road

■ Questions yet to be answered

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Blair Bowman, owner of the \$18-million Rock Financial Showplace in Novi, is trying to develop another parcel north of 12 Mile Road and east of Dixon Road in Novi. City planners and members of the planning commission are not in favor of the property being developed at the density or number of homes the developer is requesting.

Bowman has also agreed to pay for half of an almost \$2 million cleanup of the property, which is contaminated with arsenic.

County funds, through the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority program, are also available to pay for the other half of the cleanup.

A public hearing took place at the May 10 planning commission meeting on Bowman's request for a positive recommendation to city council on the project.

The 25.1-acre site in question are east of Dixon Road and north of 12 Mile Road.

Bowman wants to rezone the property from R-A, Residential Average District (less than one acre) to RM-1, Low Density, Low-Rise Multiple-Family Residential District.

He is requesting just over 41 units per acre, which is not the highest density for this type of zoning.

Barb McNeil, director of planning, said RM-1 zoning could go as high as eight units to the acre, depending on the project.

Planning commission members tabled the matter until the next earliest possible meeting.

"They want Bowman to answer several questions and provide options for the property before making a recommendation to city council," she said.

The commission also asked for a rewording of what the units might look like since density seems to be the issue.

Planning commissioners talk
Lynn Kocan, planning commission chair, said if Bowman is asking the city to grant him more access to an outfall, she feels the city needs all of the financial information.

"We want to make an educated recommendation to city council," she said. "He's asking for an awful lot of density on that property."

Kocan said an important question is whether the land is undevelopable if Bowman doesn't help fund the cleanup.

"That will probably have a lot of bearing on the decision," Kocan said. She does not like the 45-percent lot coverage Bowman is suggesting for the 3,000-square-foot homes with detached garages.

"I would prefer to see attached housing," Kocan said. "I don't like the look. It can be a safety issue, and it's a major deviation from the ordinance."

Victor Cassio, planning commission chair, said the majority of the members of the planning commission are reluctant to give Bowman the density he is requesting on the property.

He likes, however, the fact that Bowman wants to build a housing development rather than condominiums or apartments.

"I hope we can meet in the middle somewhere, and Mr. Bowman can give us a better density. We want this area to transition more moderately," he said.

Cassio said he believes the current request won't pass muster, but "this will ultimately be for the elected body (city council) to decide."

Developer hopes for approval soon
Bowman hopes to address planning commission members again soon about the approximately 25 acres east of Dixon Road and north of 12 Mile Road he wants to develop.

He feels his project fits from a land use standpoint and would provide a major community benefit, which is exactly why the Planned Rezoning Overlay ordinance was established.

"We're not trying to buy off zoning," he said.

If Bowman's project is approved, he has also agreed to donate \$250,000 to the city for active parkland in the city.

Estimates on the arsenic cleanup are \$1.5-\$1.9 million, according to Bowman. He said he is frustrated and couldn't believe after seeing reports that city staff has taken the position that there is no public benefit to cleaning up the arsenic.

"I was flabbergasted," Bowman said.

City takes 'go-slow' approach
Clay Pearson, Novi city manager, said from the city's perspective, there are still many unanswered questions about the project.

"Members of the planning commission said that before they felt comfortable in making any decisions in terms of adding to the residential density to that area, they needed to get as many of their questions answered as possible."

He said the city is going to be level-headed. It must be cleared, and Bowman sees public benefit in doing the cleanup of land that contains arsenic.

"We need to get this contamination site clean," he said.

"We think that what's been established by Liberty Park affects the property from a land use standpoint."

Carlton Forest, the subdivision just east of the property, is zoned just over six units per acre. Bowman is requesting just over 41 units per acre.

But, Pearson said Bowman is requesting a much higher density than the current master plan, which is 1.65 homes per acre.

Several Carlton Forest homeowners have expressed their desire to keep the 25 acres next to them undeveloped as the rural atmosphere of the area was one of the main reasons they moved there.

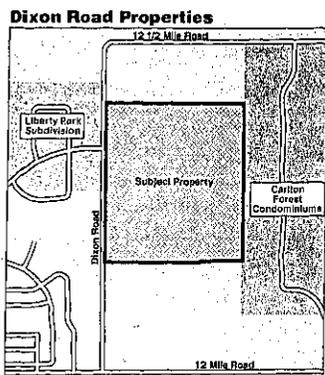
"Planning commission preferred to take a go-slow, deliberate approach," Pearson said. "There's no rush from our perspective, and it sounded like the applicant could provide most of the information before recommendations were made by the planning commission."

Pearson added that since the city doesn't own the property, it is not responsible for cleaning up the arsenic.

Aspenic cleanup was performed on the neighboring Liberty Park land just west of the property Bowman wants to develop.

"We're looking for the commitment from the community that a PRO (Planned Rezoning Overlay) makes sense," Bowman said. "If the community is not interested in doing it, we'll have to make our decision on that point. My hope is that we won't have to do that."

It didn't show up until the



Residents in favor of proposed project

■ They say they can't sell their homes

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Slip Tuck has lived in her home on Dixon Road in Novi for 33 years, but she'd leave tomorrow if she could.

"I've raised seven children here, and every one of them is healthy," he said. "They played on this property and across the street."

He now wants to sell his five acres and move, which he can do if Bowman gets to develop the land.

"Everybody wins if Bowman's project goes through," Garcia said.

County can help with cleanup
Blair Bowman recently requested a meeting with members of Novi's planning and finance departments and representatives from Oakland County's Waste Resource Management Division.

Attending from the county were Brad Hansen, environmental program coordinator, and Thomas Law, manager and member of the board for the Oakland County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

The group discussed the possibility of the county helping to pay for the cleanup of the arsenic on the Dixon Road property.

The program subsidizes private development by taking a small part of the property tax levy to repay the developer.

Basically, the plan would allow the county to capture future property tax dollars to recover the cost of the cleanup.

"I've never run across a developer who was willing to pay for half of the remediation costs like Blair has," Hansen said.

The brownfield redevelopment plan must first be approved by not only the city but also the county and the state, according to Hansen.

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American Sailing Institute has instruction for novice boaters

■ Classes features on-water training

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

You don't own a boat but yearn to get out on the water.

Why not take a sailing class at nearby Kent Lake at Kensington Metropark?

The American Sailing Institute offers classes at the East Boat Launch near the Kent Lake Road entrance.

In the Level 1 course, students learn to sail an 18-foot centerboard boat called an Interlake in light to moderate winds on the inland lake.

Students need no prior experience, and even those who have sailed can benefit from the class.

"If you've never been on a boat before or have experience, this class is for you," said Lisa Drumm, secretary, American Sailing Institute.

Instruction includes learning the parts and functions of a sailboat, sailing terminology, basic sailing knots, rules and how to maneuver a sailboat.

The beginning class starts with a two-hour Introductory Class followed by six hours of Shore School at Wayne State University's Oakland Center, 3537 West 12 Mile Road, Room numbers are posted at the entrance.

Classes are also taught at Schoolcraft College in Livonia and Macomb Community College in Warren. Students can also sail at Stony Creek Metropark in Shelby Township or on Lake St. Clair out of the Jefferson Beach Marina.

The Introductory Class is offered from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, with the Shore School from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The Level 1 Class also includes 14 hours of on-water teaching with an American Sailing Institute Instructor on board.

On-water instruction includes two to three students per boat. Classes are from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Students need to bring their own lunch.

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BUSINESS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700 ext 113; calstone@edgannett.com www.hovnews.com fax (248) 349-9832

UPDATING HISTORY: Oakland surveyors reconfirm land markers

■ Very first measurements were in 1800s

By Tamara Audi
GANNETT NEWS SERVICES

Before it was cleared, paved and subdivided to infinity, Oakland County was simply the land beyond the settlement of Detroit — a thick, musky forest that the federal government planned to use to compensate veterans of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

But first, officials had to measure it.

Using 66-foot-long chains, mules and ink-dipped pens, surveyors cut across odd woods and lakes to measure 1-square-mile parcels of land, which they usually marked with cedar posts at four corners. Nearly 200 years later, surveyors are measuring Oakland County again — this time dodging traffic and working around strip malls to verify the markers in a state-maintained program meant to help reduce land disputes.

"We're doing this so that when you buy a piece of property, you'll know that what you think you're buying is what you're buying," said Ruth Johnson, the Oakland County clerk.

The verification program, which started in the early 1990s, is not simply a matter of practicality, but also an exercise in the history of modern development. When the French writer Alexis de Tocqueville traveled through the county in 1831, about 15 years after surveying started, it was "a thick forest through which a line road has been cut. From time to time, a little cleared space... like English gardens where nature has paid all the expenses."

Lovely, but for a fair bit of Galle's grumbling about the "inexpresible torment" of mosquitoes. If only he had lived to see the Somerset Collection.

Surveyors say that some markers, or so-called corners, were obliterated by time and development — the original red-wood corners were sometimes replaced with iron pins by county workers. But in cases where posts disappeared and were not replaced, surveyors have used the historical record and Global Positioning Systems to find corner locations under odd places: the front of the Costco near Great Lakes Crossing, under a pool table in an Addison Township bar and under a Now! house.

Joe Kapelczak, the surveyor in charge of Oakland County's program, said his eight-member team has verified 3,500 out of 4,000 corner markers and expects to finish its work by 2011. Last week, he crossed another off the list: the intersection of Drake and Walnut Lake roads, marked corner 19.

Kapelczak fixed a disc-shaped satellite receiver to the top of a three-pronged stand. He took out a yellow handheld global positioning device and watched the receiver link to seven Department of Defense satellites as download the latitude and longitude of a spot first marked in 1817.

Later, the coordinates would be fed into a computer database and used to create a grid. Now, the corner measurements "will always be known. They'll never be lost, no matter what happens," Kapelczak said with some pride. Then he smiled, and added: "As long as the stars don't fall out of the heavens."

Contact TAMARA AUDI at 313-222-6582 or audi@freepress.com

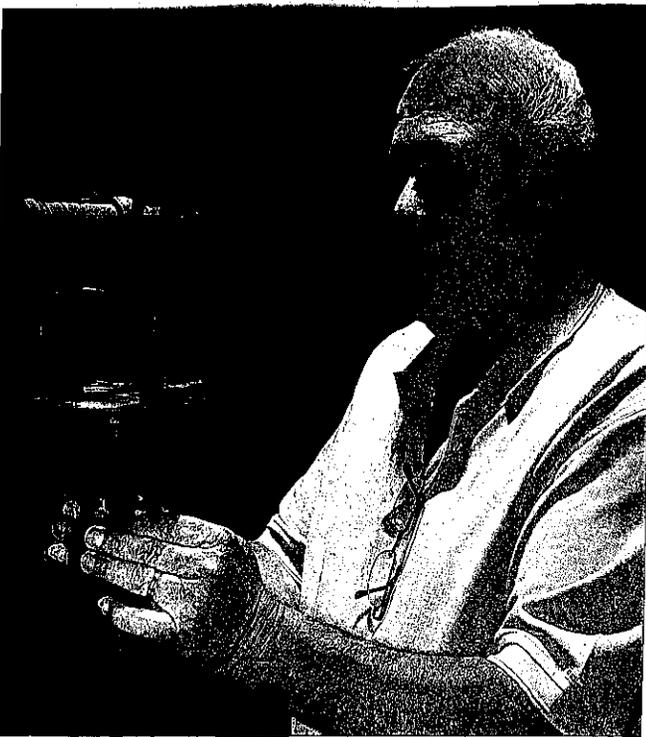


Photo by Sam Eggleston

From vintage equipment to Global Positioning Systems, Joe Kapelczak's tools of the trade have changed dramatically.

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Dip in, Novi

Fondue restaurant offers 'melting' experience

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Joel Pool wants to make sure everyone enjoys their experience at the Melting Pot.

As a corporate trainer for the new Novi fondue restaurant, Pool, of Dallas, is spending two weeks teaching more than 40 new staff members the tricks and tips of the Melting Pot.

"This is not like any other restaurant in Novi," said Pool, of the franchise's support center. "Repeat customers come for the environment and everyone will want to come back and try everything."

After more than a year in the making, the Melting Pot celebrated its grand opening yesterday, offering customers a full menu of fondue delights.

Co-owner Mark Tuomi said dining at the Melting Pot is like no other experience.

At first glance, customers will notice specially designed tables with built-in burners in the center to heat the fondue pots. They will also notice colorful fondue forks decorating each table setting for dipping.

With an average turnover time of 1.5 hours, Tuomi said the Melting Pot isn't a place to catch a quick bite to eat.

"It's a place to relax, enjoy the environment and good food," he said. "It's also a lot of fun."

Open for business

Tuomi, first-time restaurant owner and engineer by trade, was approached by his sister, Rindy Soik, and her husband, Matt, with the idea of opening a Melting Pot in Novi.

"I've always wanted to have the chance of pursuing the American dream," he said. "This way we can have our own restaurant and have the benefit of corporate help."

Tuomi said he and his partners choose Novi due to the potential of

The Melting Pot

Located: 26425 Novi Road
Hours: 4-11 p.m.
Monday-Sunday
Contact: (248) 347-1121
(6358), reservations are recommended
Web site: www.meltingpot.com
Price: Avg. price is about \$38 per person, according to corporate website.
Menu favorites: The Big Night Out (four-course meal); The Vegetarian; Amaretto Meltdown and Cookies 'n Cream; Marshmallow Dream

the city and new growth.

The Melting Pot Restaurants, Inc. is the country's largest fondue restaurant chain, founded in 1975 and headquartered in Tampa, Fla.

The restaurant's concept: Dip into something different.

With more than 100 locations nationwide, the Melting Pot offers direct assistance of fondue, cooked at the table by the guests.

Tuomi said the restaurant offers an environment for couples, families, corporate dinner parties and friendly gatherings.

Though each franchise has to follow corporate specifications, "each location has its own flair," he added.

Andy Agnuso said he is more than excited that the restaurant is finally open.

As general manager for the Novi location, Agnuso said he couldn't wait to get the doors open.

"Seeing it shine is the best part," he said.

Tuomi said he would like to open another Melting Pot in the future, but right now he's focused on making the Novi store a success.

"We're really glad to be in Novi," he said. "We believe in total guest satisfaction, and we're here to provide for them."

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



Photo by JOHN HEIDEN/Novi News

The Melting Pot's proprietor Mark Tuomi dips a cauliflower into a fondue mixture at his new Novi Road restaurant. Each table has its own warming plate in the center to heat oil or cheese mixtures for food to be cooked in.

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<p>FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE On Hogarty Rd. North of E. Mile Rd. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Morning Celebration 10:30 a.m. (248) 345-1700 Dr. Steve Poulos, Pastor</p>	<p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 1100 E. Northville Rd. 48011 Worship & Church School 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. 30301 N. West Henrieville Rd. (at I-96) 48049 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Rev. Kent Chase, Senior Pastor Rev. John Smith, Associate Pastor</p>
<p>MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 2455 Meadowbrook Rd. in Novi at I-96 248-348-7137 • www.meadowbrookcongregationalchurch.com Sunday Worship 10 a.m. For more information, call the Service Pastor, Congregation, the Board of Disciples, Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neal Hunt.</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 710 Thorne Northville MEETING: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Sunday: 7:30, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Church 349-3140, School 349-3146 Religious Education: 349-2559 Rev. Lawrence Karasz, Pastor</p>
<p>CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican) 10146 Bellevue Woodcroft & 19000 Phone 248-271-1175 Sun. 7:00 & 10:00 am. (Nov. Church of the Holy Cross School & Nursery, 10 am) Rev. James Henry, Pastor www.churchoftheholycross.com</p>	<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Northville Worship: Ev. Lutheran Synod Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class 8:00am Worship 10:30am Thomas E. Schaeffer, pastor - 349-0555</p>
<p>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 4402 W. 10 Mile, Novi 248-347-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Sunday 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Service Dr. Richard J. Harkness, Pastor</p>	<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 3471 1st St. 11 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Worship Services Sun. 9:30am & 11:30am Rev. John Yano Rev. Lisa Cook www.fumcnorthville.org</p>
<p>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 4032 10 Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48242 Sunday 8:00 a.m. Reverend George Cooney, Pastor 248-230-7830</p>	<p>OAK POINTE CHURCH All New High School 10 Mile & 1st Roads Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Couples, contemporary, Live Bands (248) 912-4343 www.oakpointe.org</p>
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<p>MATURITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY EAST ORTHODOX CHURCH 33661 Five Mile Rd. & Hogarty Farmington Hills, MI 48334 Phone 734-420-0143 Society Services Matins (Coptic) 6:00 a.m., Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Novi St. George 14, Novi Roadster www.maturityofthevirginmary.org</p>	<p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH Nemego MI • 2025 G4 Rd. • 248-474-0584 Summer schedule: Saturday 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm 8:30 & 11:30 am. Traditional 7:30, 7:30, 11:00 am. Choir Nursery Available</p>
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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ground breaking plans

Signature Associates announced the ground breaking of their Meadowbrook Office Building site located at 41355 West 12 Mile in Novi June 2. The future building will be a two-story, 40,000-square-foot medical/general office building and is being developed by West Bloomfield-based Hefco Properties. Located at the southwest corner of 12 Mile and Meadowbrook, the property is located adjacent to the M-512 Mile interchange and Twelve Oaks Mall.

Building features include a drop-off and pick-up roof enclosure, medical suite capability throughout the building, ADA entry doors, medical side elevator, and a natural gas backup generator available for backing up tenant servers and key medical apparatus.

Currently, the entire building is available for lease, and construction is scheduled for completion in early 2007.

Association formed

The businesses of the Main Street District in downtown Novi have joined forces to better market their services, shops and restaurants. The Main Street Merchants Association met May 9 for their first official meeting. Hafeez Shahki spearheaded the formation of the council and the association elected several members, including Brian Larson, owner of Larson Jewelry Design,

president; Joe Gallagher, manager of the Toll Brothers Design Studio, vice president; and Renee Galley, studio coordinator of the Toll Brothers Design Studio, treasurer/secretary.

The association is currently creating a Web site to provide a business directory with store hours, maps and Web links. They are also developing a quarterly newsletter, The Main Street Mission, to provide a calendar of events as well as featured businesses and community news.

Space available

Northern Equities Group will unveil the largest office building in its portfolio this month, the \$25-million, 130,000-square-foot Columbus Corporate Office Center. The family-run land development and management company is seeking brokers to find a single tenant to occupy the three-story building.

"In our mind, this is the perfect single-tenant headquarters," said Matthew Sozin, vice president of Northern Equities in a statement. "It's a very visible building with larger floor plates and impressive architecture."

Simulation center

The UAW-GM Center for Human Resources officially opened its Simulated Work Environment (SWE) facility. The facility was opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony co-chaired by the Center for Human Resources

on June 2 in Detroit. The Simulated Work Environment simulates manufacturing plant processes and provides hands-on training.

Participants come from UAW-represented GM locations throughout the United States. These participants go through the one-day training in what are known as "natural work groups."

For example, a plant level group of UAW and GM leaders would attend the training together in order to maximize learning opportunities.

The training directly supports the UAW-GM Quality Network and the GM Global Manufacturing System. The training improves plant quality, safety, productivity and more.

The 4,073-square-foot SWE is designed as a closed-loop conveyor system with sixteen active work stations, plus one material delivery operator. One of the seven-teen team members becomes the team leader. Through expert facilitation, participants assemble a product, a wooden car.

To date, more than 1,300 people have participated in the training. It is anticipated that the facility will provide over five thousand additional training hours during 2006.

recommending a replacement to the state's Single Business Tax, and she said they will work cooperatively with each other to find a substitute for the widely despised tax.

"At a time of economic crisis and angst in the hearts of Michigan workers, I take this task very seriously," said Cassis, co-chair of the Special Joint Committee on Economic Growth. "I am determined to work in a nonpartisan way to come up with guidelines to propose to the entire Legislature a substitute for an antiquated and outmoded business tax."

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikema and House Speaker Craig DeRoche announced the formation of the bipartisan, House-Senate committee, and the Senate and House today approved the joint resolution creating it. The committee will study options for replacing the Single Business Tax and recommend a replacement plan to the Legislature no later than Dec. 1.

In addition to Cassis, Sikema appointed to the committee Sens. Alan Sarnoff, R-Richmond Township, and Bruce Thomas, D-Detroit. The House members appointed by DeRoche are Reps. Fulton Sheen (co-chair), R-Plymouth, Bill Hinzinger, R-Zeeland, and Andy Dillon, D-Redford Township.

Cassis said she was "elated" with the choice of committee members, and she said they are "rich with talent and people of good will" who will do the tough

business-growth success stories to business decision makers in Michigan and around the country.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, MEDC President James Epolino, Jeff Daniels, and WJR Radio host Paul W. Smith unveiled the advertising and were joined by two Michigan CEOs who will be featured prominently in the MEDC initiative, Maria Thompson, CEO of TTI Technologies in Ann Arbor, and Dr. Subhendu Guha, President and COO of United Solar Ovicore shared their decisions for expanding their businesses in Michigan.

"CEOs are choosing Michigan for their business growth because they think Michigan is a great place to do business," Granholm said. "We want those CEOs sharing that story with the world so that when other businesses are looking for a place to grow and create jobs, they look at Michigan first. MEDC's advertising focuses on companies and CEOs who capitalized on Michigan's business resources to give them a global competitive edge."

The initiative will highlight Michigan's key business-attraction tools including its competitive business environment, its world-renowned universities, its highly skilled workforce, its status as the world's research and design hub, and its new, \$2 billion 21st Century Jobs Fund.

Together, these tools give Michigan businesses "The Upper Hand."

work necessary work to find a replacement for the SBT.

The House and Senate are poised to act on approving an initiative position that ends the SBT on Dec. 31, 2007. Pillion signatures were presented to the state on Tuesday. The Secretary of State and Board of State Canvassers have 60 days to certify the SBT petition signatures.

Once the signatures are certified, the Legislature has 40 days to approve the initiative as law. The governor plays no role in the SBT elimination under the initiative-proposal process.

MEDC unveils new business marketing initiative

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) launched the largest business marketing initiative in Michigan's history at a formal briefing to Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce Machine Policy Conference attendees on Mackinac Island last week.

The national advertising and marketing initiative will share stories of successful CEOs who have chosen to expand their businesses in Michigan as a way to encourage other businesses to choose Michigan for the site of their future job creation.

Award-winning actor/director and Michigan resident/entrepreneur Jeff Daniels—along with well-known news media personalities, including CNBC's Maria Bartiromo and CBS's Charles Osgood—will introduce these

Compiled by Tracy Mishler

PEOPLE

GM Store, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113; cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax: (248) 349-8832

Pinewood Derby a big success for Novi's Cub Scout Pack 375

"Gentlemen start your engines"—or should we say, "Boys prepare your derby cars."

Cub Scout Pack 375 of Novi held its annual Pinewood Derby April 1. Over 20 entries competed for the title of fastest derby car as well as awards such as best Cub car and most aerodynamic. The fastest derby car winners were Ryan Kowalski (first place), Blake Davis (second place) and Garrett Buckley (third place).

Of course, the fun of a race and the pride in making the cars is what the boys will remember. Trophies for the top finishers and certificates including a car photo for all entries will preserve these memories forever.

Pack 375 is sponsored by Providence Park Hospital and includes boys from Parkview Elementary School. This year, the race was held at Providence Park for the first time. Even more historic is that this year the pack purchased its own track and ran the entire derby. The track is a technical wonder with computerized results and start and finish line sensors. The pack is very proud to own even Pinewood Derby equipment and extends a heartfelt "Thank You" to the community for fundraising assistance through last fall's Cub Scout popcorn sales.

Parents of Parkview Elementary School boys who will be in grades one through five next school year and are interested in joining Cub Scouting are encouraged to call Cathy Vera-Burgos at (248) 303-9708 for more information.

Submitted by Dave Davis, Assistant Cubmaster



Back row (l to r): Dave Davis, Assistant Cubmaster, Travla Sparling, Garret Buckley, Patrick Mancini, Blake Davis, Evan Davis, Nick Ranks, Scott Callison, Cubmaster; middle row: Kunj Goenka, Declan Wintship, Bryan Callison, Jared Mazer, Owen Wintship, Zachary Plorkowski; front row: Zachary Moore, Ryan Katuski, Christopher Choma, Griffin Sparling.

OBITUARY

WILLARD "BILL" GEORGE FEAR

Age 73, of Redwood died Friday, May 26, 2006 at Munson Hospice House. He was born February 24, 1933 in Cleveland, Ohio to Harold Roy and Florence Mae (Bardall) Fear. On September 9, 1952 he married Mary Joan Gardner in St. Joseph, Michigan. Willard worked as a plant manager for Kasie Steel in Dearborn and a metallurgical engineer for Kaiser Aluminum and most recently co-owned Artisan Paint with his son, Jeff. He was the troop leader for Troop #54 of the Boy Scouts of America in Novi from 1970-1975, a member of the Purdue University Alumni Association, Willard enjoyed sailing and gardening. Willard is survived by his wife of 34 years Mary, sons Stephen Fear of Winom, MI, Kerry Fear of Brighton, MI, Jeffrey Fear of Traverse City, MI, daughter Lori Weiland of Pinckney, MI, four grandsons David Fear, Keith, Brian, and Craig Weiland and granddaughter Dana Fort. He was preceded in death by two sons David and Michael. A memorial service will be held Saturday, June 3, 2006 at 2:00 PM at the Covell Funeral Home. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to the Oncological Sciences Center at Purdue University. Arrangements have been entrusted to Covell Funeral Home, Traverse City.

OBITUARY POLICY
The first section of an obituary is published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$25 for each line. There may be published for \$15.
*Obituary for obituary is Tuesday at 10:00 am for publication in Thursday's newspaper.
For more information call 248-991-1245 or visit our website at www.covellfuneralhome.com. *Obituary quotes are subject to change.

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HEALTH

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

Parish nursing alive and well at St. James Catholic Church

Public welcome to question, learn

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Denise Sinkovich, MSN, RN, says parish nursing is nothing new.

In fact, knowledgeable church volunteers have helped the sick and injured in communities since the beginning of civilization.

"Health and healing have gone hand-in-hand in the church for centuries," she said.

But, Sinkovich, a parish nurse at St. James Catholic Church in Novi, said parish nursing only became an official occupation in the early 1970s.

Although St. James' parish nurses are volunteers, some are paid.

Parish Health Ministry was formed at St. James in April 2004, and the Novi church already has an active program.

The first year, Sinkovich said the nurses were just getting their feet wet — trying to determine the needs of the congregation, goals and a mission.

Six registered nurses now make up the St. James' team.

"This past year has really been our break-out year," Sinkovich said.

Kids Fair draws over 100

The recent Kids' Health & Safety Fair on April 30, organized by parish nurse Deb McWilliams,

was one of the biggest programs they've had.

The event attracted about 120 people and included bike safety, staff from the Novi Police and Fire departments, skin cancer prevention, dental health, spiritual health, hearing and speech, smoking and kids, the importance of hand washing and more.

"We're working with our youth minister to do something for teens in the near future," Sinkovich said.

The programs are open to the public. "In all the programs that we do, all members of the community are welcome," Sinkovich said. "It's not just for our congregation."

A bone density screening for women took place at the church in January, with several residents from other communities attending.

All of the parish nursing programs are free at St. James as they are sponsored by St. John Health System.

Brochures from such organizations such as the American Cancer Society or American Heart Association are provided free of charge as well.

"The things we do have a budget in Parish Health Ministry, we try to get things that are free," Sinkovich said.

Women's Health is addressed during October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and February, which is Women's Heart Health Month.

The parish nurses also act as a referral source for those seeking free immunizations or health screenings.

"We don't make house calls, but we can point you in the right direction," Sinkovich said. Parish nurses are also available to give presentations to local groups.

Information is also available, with nurses present to answer questions, after each mass at St. James.

Sinkovich said parish nursing works.

"If we pass out 100 brochures,

Have a health question?

Have a health-related question for a parish nurse at St. James Catholic Church? Call Denise Sinkovich, MSN, RN, at (248) 347-7778.

Information is also available in the church lobby, with nurses present to answer health questions after each mass.

Services are at 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. on Sundays.

St. James Catholic Church is located at 46325 W. 10 Mile Road east of Beck Road in Novi.

Photo courtesy of St. James Catholic Church

Novi dentist Dr. John Toupin actually pulled out a tooth for Mary Grace Sinkovich (above) at the April 30 Kids' Health & Safety Fair at St. James Catholic Church in Novi.

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Sinkovich said parish nursing works.

"If we pass out 100 brochures,

we typically get two people who call to say, 'Thank you. Because of this brochure, I saw my doctor and learned I had a problem,'" she said. "We're helping one parishioner at a time."

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

HEALTH BRIEFS

Free health fair Sunday at Providence

St. John Providence Park Hospital in Novi is joining forces with the Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Origin for its 3rd annual Free Health Fair. The goal of the event is to improve the health of the local community by offering important health information, screenings and tests. This event is also supported by Gurnanank Sikh Temple of Novi.

The event will take place on Sunday, June 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at St. John Providence Park Hospital in Novi, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Conference Rooms A, B, C and D.

"We believe it is important for us to give back to the community and to offer these vital health care services at no cost," says Chandrika Joshi, M.D., president of MAPIO and an OB/GYN at Providence.

Health experts from the hospital will provide services including bone density screenings, blood pressure checks and a full blood screening panel that includes sugar, cholesterol, hemoglobin and PSA.

For those interested in the blood-screening panel, pre-registration is required in person or by calling St. John Health Connect at 1-888-440-7325. Also, because fasting is required, those taking the screening should not eat or drink (water is permitted) after midnight. You must be 25 years of age or older to take the blood-screening panel.

In addition to screenings and tests, primary care physicians and specialists will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on various health issues including hormone replacement therapy, breast cancer, mammogram, prostate, catraacts, nutrition, exercise, life-style enhancements, osteoporosis, diabetes, heart disease and more.

Call St. John Health Connect at 1-888-440-7325 for more information about the health fair.

Raffle can help send children with cancer to special camp

The Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream, Michigan Chapter, headquartered in Farmington Hills, are selling tickets for their annual raffle to benefit Camp Mak-A-Dream, a free camp in Montana for children and young adults with cancer.

Through the fund-raising efforts of the Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream, 67 youths from Michigan attended the camp last year.

The raffle's grand prize includes two tickets to the Emmy Awards on Aug. 27, two round-trip tickets to Los Angeles, two nights at the Park Hyatt Hotel and a three-day car rental.

The second prize is a \$500 Best Buy gift card. The third prize is a \$100 Blackboxer gift card.

Tickets are available for \$25 each, with a limit of 2,000 tickets being sold.

Participants need not be present to win, and winners will be selected June 16 and notified by mail. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call Lauran Auman at Friends of Camp Mak-A-Dream (248) 539-9970 or at friendsofcamp@msn.com.

Two resign from Novi schools

Assistant superintendent, coordinator of communications both leaving

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community School District will bid farewell to two familiar faces June 16, the last day of work for resigning staffers Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent for academic services, and Kristyn Zinner, communications assistant.

Bob Schram, executive director of human resources for the district, announced Davis' resignation at the June 1 school board of trustees meeting.

Zinner has been living in Farmington, but is moving to Grand Rapids to join her husband, who has been there since November, when he was promoted by the company he works for. They have been commuting back and forth to see each other, which Zinner said has been getting

expensive.

Zinner has worked for the school district a year-and-a-half.

"I'm very sad to leave this area," Zinner said. "It's really going to miss Novi and this position. It was quite interesting."

She has found a job in Grand Rapids as the public relations and marketing manager for the Grand Rapids Art Museum. The museum is moving to a new facility, she said, which she will be promoting. She will also be marketing the museum as a place for everyone to come to learn, not just a place to go on a rainy day or for a field trip.

"It should be fun," she said. She said she will miss Novi.

"I think overall it's just been a lot of fun," she said. "Novi is just a fabulous community. Everybody is just so willing to work together. The community has made my job fairly simple."

Before coming to Novi, Zinner handled public relations and marketing for a law firm, a job she held for two-and-a-half years.

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

EDUCATION

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



Photo by JOHN HEISLER/Novi News

Shine 'er up!

Novi High Junior Chris Jodion

polishes up his 2003 F250 Ford pickup truck

during last week's student car show.

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3:30 - 5:00pm Show Hit Band (Dixieland)	3:30 - 5:00pm Show Hit Band (Dixieland)
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Novi High's Quiz Bowl team makes big strides

Team goes 5-5 in Chicago tournament

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

It wouldn't be a quiz bowl road trip without at least a little light studying - some nuclear physics, or a review of papal succession, for example.

That's exactly what the nine members of the Novi High School quiz bowl team were studying Friday as they headed to Chicago for the eighth annual High School National Championship Quiz Bowl, which featured 128 teams from around the country. The Novi team went 5-5 in the event, and missed making the Sunday playoffs by just one question.

The whole way down they were just chatting," said team coach and high school Spanish teacher Robert Baker. "They were working on sub-atomic particles and popes."

Heartbreak, improvement

Baker said in the unofficial results, the Novi squad placed 61st in the event, which was held Saturday. They ruffled out on their final at the staffs on their very final question of their last

match, but Baker said the team improved quite a bit from last year's first time attending the competition.

"We came real close," Baker said. "It was somewhat heart-breaking, (but) we improved quite a bit. Almost making the playoffs is huge. We were pretty proud of ourselves."

"We had a great time," he said. "It's just nice to be able to compete against the best of the best."

Potential for next year

Team captain Robert Burgess was ranked the 10th best sophomore quiz bowler in the entire competition, Baker said. Only one graduating senior is leaving the team, and the best two players are in 10th grade, Baker said, meaning the team should have a strong season next year.

"We've got a lot of potential," Baker said. "We're not relying on anyone. We can use the same tools."

The Quiz Bowl matches are divided into two nine-minute halves, Baker said. Teams have four players competing at the same time, in a jeopardy-style match with buzzers they hit when they have an answer. The first team to correctly answer the first question gets a shot at bonus questions.

"It's fascinating to watch, and I'm really proud of them," Baker said. "It's a furious pace. It's very



Novi High School quiz bowl team coach Robert Baker strategizes with player Kamel Yeohorah last weekend in Chicago, where the team went 5-5 in the eighth annual High School National Championship Tournament of Quiz Bowl.

interest. The con-network prepares them for the most part."

The team made the competition

after placing in the top five in a February tournament at Michigan State University. The team prac-

tical daily for several hours for three weeks leading up to the Chicago tournament, Baker said.

They had to learn things like the capital cities of different countries, familiarize themselves with classic literature, and even keep up on current events.

"(The questions) could be anything," Baker said. "They're very hard."

The team also worked on strategy, such as rotating in bench players at the proper time to help avoid mental fatigue. Players on the team specialized, Baker said, honing their expertise in different areas such as psychology, physics, chemistry, math and literature.

The farm system

"We've got a pretty deep bench," he said. "We've got a good farm system."

The team draws members from the "novice" team, which is for freshmen, and the junior varsity squad may even be added, Baker said.

In the fall, the team will start competing again, in a league of 16 schools. Team members have selected officers for next year and will meet before the start of summer to discuss summer studying.

The key, Baker said, is for players to "add weapons to their arsenal" by doing plenty of reading.

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1703, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

NYA summer registration Saturday

Registration at Civic Center for teen day program

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Registration for Novi Youth Alliance's summer day camp program is being held Saturday at the Novi Civic Center.

The drop-off program, open to Novi residents, is for kids in grades six, seven and eight, and keeps them busy in the afternoons. Monday through Thursday, the program is held at Novi Middle School, and students taking morning summer school classes can come to the program directly.

The program keeps kids occupied with ping pong, basketball, movies, video games, arts and crafts, and presentations by police officers and firefighters. The kids are supervised by six employees,

five of whom are teachers, said camp counselor Sarah Tapley, who is a permanent substitute teacher at the middle school.

"They love it," Tapley said. "They have a good time. The staff has a really good rapport with the kids. The kids want to be there."

The program also includes optional field trips to Cedar Point and a Tigers game, as well as a water park, laser tag, a water park outing, and a trip to see the second "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie this summer.

"It's a good experience for them," said Tapley, who has worked in the program for three years. "You couldn't ask for a better summer job."

The kids also have the chance to spend the night one time at a "lock in" event from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. the next morning. The event includes food, movies and a "Mock Olympics" competition, held at 4 a.m.

"There are so many other influences out there," said counselor Sarah Tapley, a teacher in the Huron Valley school district. "It's kind of like an escape from stuff

Details

Novi Youth Assistance will hold a summer day camp program for kids entering sixth grade up through eighth grade from June 19 to July 27. The program is open to Novi residents and is held Monday to Thursday from 12:30 p.m. at the Novi Middle School.

Registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday at the Novi Civic Center. The price is \$80 per child or \$150 for two children, with additional costs for field trips. Parents can opt out of signing up for the field trips, since the field trip is still held at the middle school on field trip days.

For more information, contact Novi Youth Assistance at (248) 347-0410.

They'd normally be doing. It's one positive influence the City of Novi has."

"I used to go just to play the video games," said Topper, age 30, who attended the camp when he was 13 years old. "I kept me from sitting at home watching the TV."

The kids will also have the chance to volunteer at Providence Park Hospital, putting together crafts and information packets.

One of the final events the

camp will hold is a community lunch for the children, which Tapley said is often attended by school and city officials. Novi restaurants donate food for the event, she said.

"These companies in Novi are good to us," Tapley said.

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

CITY OF NOVI

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Novi Planning Commission will conduct a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the City of Novi Council Chamber, Novi, Michigan to consider the Woodland Permit application of Brian Wastow, 47355 Belagio Ct., Belagio, MI 48015, Section 32, Sublot 1, 50-22-32-276-014 (Case WR06-02). The Applicant seeks to clear and grub approximately 7,000 square feet of the regulated woodland in the rear yard.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are invited to attend. Any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, Attention Woodland Review Board, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48075.

JANIE SCHIFF
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
(6-8-06 NN 290947)

Visit us on the Web: www.novinews.com

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Singh Homes Building Company LLC is requesting a Temporary Use Permit for the placement of a temporary construction trailer on Lot 84 of "Gillgate Woods" located west of Meadowbrook Road and north of Twelve Mile Road at 41710 Steinbrook Glen from June 14, 2006 to July 14, 2007.

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

This request will be considered at 8:30 a.m. on June 14, 2006 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48075. Written comments should be directed to Robin A. Working and must be received prior to June 14, 2006.

ROBIN A. WORKING
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0580
(6-8-06 NN 280100)

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that George Pastor and Son's is requesting a Temporary Use Permit for the placement of a temporary pre-manufactured building located at 43356 Coscent Blvd. in the Novi Town Center from June 14, 2006 to July 1, 2007.

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

This request will be considered at 8:30 a.m. on June 14, 2006 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48075. Written comments should be directed to Robin A. Working and must be received prior to June 14, 2006.

ROBIN A. WORKING
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0580
(6-8-06 NN 280105)

NOTICE CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 06-022

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Kevin Wilson of KWKW Enterprises and Blair Bowman of Novi Expo Center are requesting a Temporary Use Permit for the storage of new vehicles at Novi Expo Center located at 43700 Expo Center Drive from July 31, 2006 through October 31, 2006.

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

This request will be considered at 8:30 a.m. on June 14, 2006 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48075. Written comments should be directed to Robin A. Working and must be received prior to June 14, 2006.

ROBIN A. WORKING
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0580
(6-8-06 NN 280907)

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 16-2Z FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR SECONDARY ZONING OF PROPERTY IN SECTION 9 (NOMINAL C/L OF 12 MILE ROAD, 85.00 FEET WIDE) AND SECTION 9 (NOMINAL C/L OF 12 MILE ROAD, 85.00 FEET WIDE) AND NORTH OF TWELVE MILE ROAD FROM I-2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL TO OST PLANNED OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT. The subject property is 16.1 acres.

To request a part of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 9, T.1N., R.9E., City of Novi, Oakland County, Michigan being part of Parcel 22-03-451-013 more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the East right-of-way line of West Park Drive, said point being N87°00'4"E, 175.00 feet along the South line of Section 9 (nominal C/L of 12 Mile Road, 85.00 feet wide) and N27°08'19"W, 102.00 feet and S87°03'04"W, 85.00 feet and N27°08'19"W, 85.90 feet along the East right-of-way line of West Park Drive (85 feet wide) and N87°01'4"E, 546.34 feet from the South 1/4 corner of Section 9 to the point of beginning; thence N43°58'19"W, 494.21 feet thence S20°12'18"E, 122.23 feet; thence N48°11'45"E, 475.00 feet; thence S65°29'45"E, 347.89 feet; thence S24°30'15"W, 57.04 feet; thence S65°29'45"E, 91.75 feet; thence S22°45'59"E, 193.78 feet; thence S87°51'19"W, 622.75 feet; thence S23°08'16"E, 305.56 feet; thence S34°48'00"E, 615.40 feet; thence N69°18'00"E, 247.31 feet; thence S65°29'45"E, 387.42 feet; thence S20°09'18"E, 494.21 feet; thence S80°51'41"W, 546.34 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 7.75 acres.

Also beginning at a point located N87°03'04"E, 175.00 feet along the South line of Section 9 (nominal C/L of 12 Mile Road, 85 feet wide) and N27°08'19"W, 102.00 feet and S87°03'04"W, 85.00 feet and N27°08'19"W, 85.90 feet along the East right-of-way line of West Park Drive (85 feet wide) and N87°01'4"E, 546.34 feet from the South 1/4 corner of Section 9 to the point of beginning; thence N43°58'19"W, 494.21 feet thence S20°12'18"E, 122.23 feet; thence N48°11'45"E, 475.00 feet; thence S65°29'45"E, 347.89 feet; thence S24°30'15"W, 57.04 feet; thence S65°29'45"E, 91.75 feet; thence S22°45'59"E, 193.78 feet; thence S87°51'19"W, 622.75 feet; thence S23°08'16"E, 305.56 feet; thence S34°48'00"E, 615.40 feet along the arc of a 72.00 foot radius curve to the left, central angle 42°32'28", chord bearing N71°42'06"W, 52.24 feet; thence S20°12'18"E, 350.27 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 6.34 acres. All of the above containing 16.10 acres.

FROM: I-2 GENERAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO: OST OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48075 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 28, 2006.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WR06L, SECRETARY
(6-8-06 NN 280948)

Catholic Central team takes fourth in Quiz Bowl competition

By Matt Doran
STAFF WRITER

Detroit Catholic Central High School's quiz bowl team made it to the semi-finals and took fourth place overall in the eighth annual High School National Championship Quiz Bowl, which featured 128 teams from around the country. The Novi team went 5-5 in the event, and missed making the Sunday playoffs by just one question.

The team, composed of seniors Joel Knight and Nick Galea and juniors Eric Muller, Tom Maloney, Carl Thompson and John Cunningham, went 14-2 in the competition, before losing to the team which ultimately took the championship.

"I would've liked first, but they played very well," said coach Jason Jones. "They're good kids."

Knight, who is captain of the team, was also named one of the tournament's three MVPs.

The team has one tournament left in North Carolina in a couple of weeks, and has already competed in 21 tournaments this year, racking up a record of 137-12, Jones said. The team practices twice a week, 11 months out of the year.

"We'll probably start competing again in September," Jones said.

With four juniors returning next year, Jones said he is optimistic about the team's prospects next year.

The Chicago trip was all business, Jones said. The team competed during the day and practiced during the evening. The students were a little disappointed that they didn't get to use the hotel swimming pool, but there was a lot of preparation left, he said.

"We pretty much were there to work," Jones said.

Matt Doran is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1703, ext. 109, or by e-mail at mdoran@gannett.com.

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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider PROVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-21, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 17 AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF BECK ROAD AND GRAND RIVER AVENUE, IN THE OSC, OFFICE SERVICE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT. The subject property is 13.7 acres and the applicant is proposing a 213,000 sq. ft. medical office building.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48075 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 14, 2006.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WR06L, SECRETARY
(6-8-06 NN 290945)

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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider NOVI TOWN CENTER CUL-DE-SACS, SITE PLAN NUMBER 06-28 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTIONS 14 AND 22 AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF NOVI ROAD AND GRAND RIVER AVENUE, IN THE T/C-TOWN CENTER DISTRICT. The subject property is 53.71 acres for the overall Town Center Site and the applicant is proposing to construct retail and restaurant pads on four cul-de-sacs totaling approximately 25,000 square feet.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48075 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 14, 2006.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
WAYNE WR06L, SECRETARY
(6-8-06 NN 290946)

Redistricting forums scheduled

The Novi Community School District administration will hold two public forums this summer on plans for redistricting, prior to an expected decision by the school board of trustees in October.

The public forums will be held at the TTC Forum at 7 p.m. July 20 and August 14.

The redistricting plan is the result of work by the School Utilization and Redistricting Committee. The committee has met nine times in full committee session and sub-committees have also met on issues regarding redistricting elementary boundaries, facilities usage, and community education collaboration.

On June 15, a report from the sub-committee will be submitted to Jim Koster, assistant superintendent for finance, who has co-chaired the committee with executive Mike Wilmut.

The committee will submit the final report to superintendent Peter Dion at 7 p.m. June 21 at the TTC Forum.

The school board of education will receive a copy of the report at its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. July 13, at the Educational Service Building.

After the two public forums, the administration will make final recommendations on the report to the board of trustees at a board meeting at 7:30 p.m. September 7 at the Educational Service Building.

The school board plans to make a final decision on the recommendations at its October 5 meeting, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Educational Service Building.

For more information about the schedule, contact assistant superintendent for finance Jim Koster at (248) 449-1200 or jkoster@novi.k12.mi.us.

Schedule:

June 15: Assistant superintendent for finance Jim Koster receives report from committees.

June 21: The report is submitted to superintendent Peter Dion.

June 21: A hard copy of the report becomes available to the public.

July 13: The school board of education receives the report at its regular meeting.

July 20: First public forum on the report.

August 14: Second public forum on the report.

September 7: The administration makes final recommendations on the report to the school board of trustees.

October 5: The board makes a final decision on the report.

ON CAMPUS

Novi residents, Jennifer Carr and Vicki Speyer, were named to the record-setting 2006 dean's list at Hope College.

Novi residents, Robert Bailey, Chase Chandler, Elizabeth Clark, Kelsey Collins, Neil Kocum, Benjamin Landry, Douglas Ray and Jacob Ray were named to the spring 2006 semester dean's list at Albion College.

Novi residents, Maria Angelina, Renae Bard, Donaldbelden, Christopher Boelstein, Corney Brennan, Britany Broffert, Paul Burrows, Ryan Currie, Leonard Edwards, Bryan Ellis, Brandi Felix, Linda Heblitz, Daniel Hoffer, Richard Hamilton, Roger Hammond, Marilyn Hayward, Chynoi Hoa, Sonia Joyehun, Shannon Justice, Jennifer Kenny, Lanco Kitzrell, Erin Kowal, Natalie Lattinen, Phuong Thi Le, Sebastian Line, Samantha Lovary, Macina Martyneko, Jonathan Masrani, Ardythe McDowell, Jennifer Moore, Kimberly Norris, Rachel Oniepkio, Maria Rox de Pascoal, Steven Paul, Alyson Puzyn, Maria Prose, Eric Reitzbach, Belen Reyes, Daniel Sarber, Geoffrey Scott, Jonathan Shroyer, Jeri Smialko, Dhovana Toprani, Brian Wall, Danielle Wilson, Jennifer Whitehead and Justin Zyzycki were named to the winter 2006 semester dean's list at Schoolcraft College.

Christopher Walker, a student from Alvin College, has been hired as the Novi franchise by College Pro Painters for 2006.

Rupal Dodiya, from Novi, has been selected as 2006-2007 Chicago Area Schwesler Fellow. Rupal is a graduate student at Rush University and will

work with Kids-SHIP to construct a series of lectures and workshops to provide women's shelter residents with information to transition to an independent lifestyle.

Sheridan Stevens, of Novi, has been recognized for superior academic achievement and selected for membership by the National Society of High School Scholars. Sheridan is a student at Novi High School.

Novi residents, Amy Elliott and Matthew Gilbert, were named to the spring 2006 term dean's list at Beloit College.

Novi residents, James Paul Alunum, Maria Marcela Angelina, Robert A. Ataway, Nicole Carroll Bard, Donaldbelden, Ghada Bochenek, Maria A Booth, Courtney Ann Brennan, Kelly Anne Currie, Ryan John Currie, Ann Marie Donnelly, Leandrin Yvonne Lovary, Jaqueline Fernandez, Ashley Lynn Pouts, Natalie Ann Gold, Nathaniel James Hay, Lorena Anne Houseworth, Kimberly Ann Ilig, Jennifer Loren Kish, Erin Elizabeth Koval, Andrew John MacFarlane, Nuzhat Il Malik, Joseph William Matthews, Ardythe Bonita McDowell, Krystal Ann Migra, Michael Montezano, Maria Rita Rox de Pascoal, Jason R. Poremba, Eric J Reitzbach, Belen Gue Reyes, Linda Marie Slepouski, Darcia Michael Smith, Nicole Lynn Stauder, Timothy Charles Stefanow, Marius Valer Tit, Alexandria Krystec Van Renen and Brian Allen Wall were among the spring 2006 graduates of Hope College during commencement exercises.

Walled Lake residents, Mahaly Goszanyi, Kristina Mellissa

Sapelak, Andrew Paul Vanover and Tracey Lee Walker were among the spring 2006 graduates at Schoolcraft College during commencement exercises.

Wixom residents, Kay Barredo, Samuel Eric Prangell, Mercedes C Gilson, Suzanne C Keats, Jeffrey Mark Ludwig, Megan Lesley Miller, Catherine Elizabeth Nant, Stacey Lynn Ostoch and Renee Esch Schultz were among the spring 2006 graduates at Schoolcraft College during commencement exercises.

Novi residents, Lauren Anderson, Jessica Felwick, Tina Fennelly, Michael Kovalski, Cameron Lewis, Caleb Newman, Marie Ruhl, Laura Shaneski, Matthew Slinch, Katie Sulyasiak, Daniel Teburne and Steven Walling were named to the spring semester 2006 honors list at Central Michigan University.

Novi resident Heather Liu finished as runner-up in the regional final of the 2006 National Management Association National American Enterprise Speech Contest and received a \$250 U.S. Savings Bond. She is a senior at Novi High School.

Novi residents Michael Garbelli, Scott Kniffland, Jennifer Najjar, Jacob Ray and Christopher Tuller were among the spring 2006 graduates of Albion College during commencement exercises.

Novi residents Jaime Sabol and Rebecca Shubert were among the spring 2006 graduates of Hope College during commencement exercises.



Take that! Deerfield Elementary School students perform a scene from the musical 'Pirates of the Penzance' last Wednesday afternoon for fellow pupils, their teachers, and family members.

Photos by JOHN HEDER/Novi News

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For these gals, there's no such thing as old

Fox Run residents celebrate 100 years of life

By Tracy Miahler
STAFF WRITER

Kay Corwin remembers when the milkman would set bottles of cold milk on her parents' doorstep each morning.

She also remembers when the automobile was a foreign object to the road next to her two-horse power buggy.

Corwin recently celebrated her 100th birthday in May, along with her neighbor Madel Fake, in April.

Friends and neighbors at Fox Run congratulated and honored the ladies, as they have become founders of the communities century club.

Red Hat Society, book club and a long-time card player.

Corwin enjoys exercise classes and walking everyday.

"They can't keep up with me here," she said. "It's important to keep moving at our age."

Fake said she has never been a factor in her life.

At the age of 90, she went on an African safari, among dozens of adventures in her lifetime.

"I've been traveling for a long time," she said. "I really started traveling a lot after I retired from teaching in 1975."

The good old days

Both Corwin and Fake agreed they've seen their once-small world evolve into a large booming society over the past 100 years.

"You made your own clothes back then," said Corwin, born and raised in New Jersey. "There was no such thing as bought clothes."

She also said driver's licenses were unheard of.

"I remember when we got a brand new Dodge," she said. "We went to the dealer, he showed us how to drive it and off you went."

Fake said out of her 100 years, it was impossible to pick one memory that stands out in her mind.

"It's impossible to pick one memorable experience," she said.



Fox Run residents Kay Corwin, left, and Madel Fake congratulate each other on surpassing 100 years in age.

"I have so many, I wouldn't know where to start."

Corwin said one thing she'll never forget is the day World War I ended in 1918.

"Horns were blowing and people were singing in the streets," she said. "Life was just different back then."

"You didn't have the crime to

of their milestone birthdays.

And Fox Run presented them each with crisp \$100 bills.

"Both ladies are wonderful, and we're lucky to have them in our community," said Kathie Slatter, public relations manager. "We take good care of them here."

Secrets to life

Fake said there is no secret to a long life, just good health.

"Good genes and a positive attitude," she said.

Corwin said her secret to reaching triple digits was enjoying the right foods.

"I helped dad plant in the garden," she said. "I never liked the sweet things. To this day, I'd rather have a vegetable than cake."

"We also didn't run to the doctor with every little ache and pain. If nature doesn't heal it first, then you go to the doctor."

Corwin said she hasn't put much thought into a specific age she'd like to reach.

"It doesn't matter how old I get, but I want out when I can't enjoy life anymore," she said. "I've lived a good life, and I have no regrets."

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

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 6/9	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
9 a.m.	Stretch and Strength	10 a.m.	Body Recall	11 a.m.	1 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
10 a.m.	Body Recall	11 a.m.	1 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.			
1:30 p.m.	Dapt. Bridge	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.				
2:30 p.m.	Bingo								
3:30 p.m.	Massage by appointment								
4:30 p.m.									
5:30 p.m.									
Monday 6/12	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
9 a.m.	Men's Golf	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
10 a.m.	Stretch and Strength	11 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	
11 a.m.	Body Recall	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.		
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.			
1:30 p.m.	Pinnacle*	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.				
2:30 p.m.	Massage by appointment								
3:30 p.m.	Clogging*								
4:30 p.m.									
5:30 p.m.									
Tuesday 6/13	9 a.m.	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
9 a.m.	Men's Golf	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
10 a.m.	Stretch and Strength	11 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	
11 a.m.	Body Recall	12:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.		
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	1:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.			
1:30 p.m.	Pinnacle*	2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.				
2:30 p.m.	Massage by appointment								
3:30 p.m.	Clogging*								
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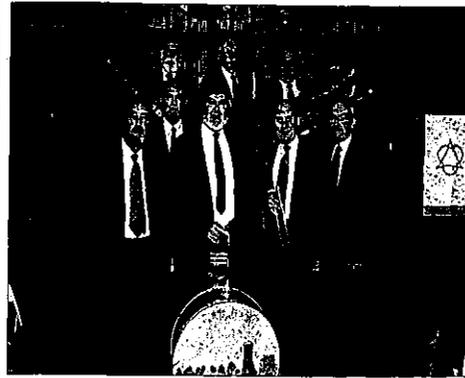
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FAITH

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Meadowbrook Congregational LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road CONTACT: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt, (248) 348-7757 or visit www.mbcoc.org Sunday Worship TIME: 10 a.m.	kindergarten through sixth grade students. The theme is "Son-Treasure Island." Registration is required and the deadline is June 30.	First United Methodist of Northville LOCATION: 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville CONTACT: (248) 349-1144 or visit www.fumcnorthville.org Sunday Worship TIME: 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m. Community Healing Service DATE: First Monday of every month DETAILS: This service is open to anyone asking God for healing in their life, or that of someone close to them.	Dixieland will be performing in both worship services. The group will lead the music for the services. Following the two services the band will play for the free church picnic, which will be held on the church grounds. The "Hymns of Dixieland" is a group of Dixieland musicians first formed in the 1960's. Everyone is welcome.
Novi United Methodist LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 349-2652	St. John Lutheran LOCATION: 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com Sunday Worship TIME: 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 10 a.m. Worship Center for ages 3-7: 10 a.m. All ages Lunch Hour Ministry TIME: 12:10-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, ongoing DETAILS: This will include scripture and Holy Communion. Youth Worship TIME: 7 p.m., second and fourth Sunday of every month Sunday School TIME: 9-9:45 a.m.	Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com Sunday Worship TIME: 7:45 and 10 a.m., Sunday School TIME: 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study: 10 a.m. Worship Center for ages 3-7: 10 a.m. All ages Lunch Hour Ministry TIME: 12:10-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, ongoing DETAILS: This will include scripture and Holy Communion. Youth Worship TIME: 7 p.m., second and fourth Sunday of every month Sunday School TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.	The Baha' Faith CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.bahai.org Devotional Gathering TIME: 11 a.m. last Sunday of every month LOCATION: 23803 Ripple Creek St., Novi DETAILS: This is a gathering focusing on prayers for peace. People of all faiths are welcome.
Holy Family LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org	Crosspoints Meadows LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 427-2900, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointsmeadows.org Sunday Worship TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.	St. Paul Lutheran LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville CONTACT: (248) 349-3140 Kindergarten Registration DETAILS: Children who will be 5-years-old by Friday, Dec. 1 may register for full-day or half-day kindergarten at St. Paul's Lutheran School.	First Presbyterian Church of Northville LOCATION: 200 E. Main St. CONTACT: (248) 349-0911 Single Place Ministries CONTACT: www.singleplace.org Walking Group TIME: 11:30 a.m. LOCATION: First, second and fourth Saturday, Big Apple Bagel Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington, Third Saturdays, Panera Bread Co., 34635 Grand River Ave., Farmington DETAILS: This is a walking/social group. Everyone is invited. Divorce Recovery Workshop II DATE: Thursday through June 15 TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m. DETAILS: Pam Jacobs-Landau will discuss honesty, trust, loneliness, depression and self-esteem. The cost of this workshop is \$45. Thursday Programs-Ongoing TIME: 7:30 social, 8 p.m. program DETAILS: The cost is \$5 per person. Programs and speakers vary. Portofino River Cruise DATE: July 15 TIME: 8-11 p.m. DETAILS: The cost is \$25 per person for this Hawaiian-themed and includes dancing, pizza and door prizes. A cash bar is available.
Oak Pointe LOCATION: Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit www.oakpointe.org Sunday Worship TIME: 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.	St. James Catholic LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 347-7778	Faith Community Presbyterian LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novivillage.org "Hymns of Dixieland" Services DATE: Sunday TIME: 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. DETAILS: "Hymns of	
Commerce United Methodist LOCATION: 1155 North Commerce Road, Commerce Township CONTACT: (248) 363-3935 Vacation Bible School DATE: July 31-Aug. 4 TIME: 9 a.m.-noon DETAILS: This event is for			



Hymns of Dixieland

On Sunday, Faith Community Presbyterian Church will feature the group, Hymns of Dixieland, in both worship services. The group will lead the music for the services, including the hymns and an anthem. Following the two services the Dixieland band will play for the church picnic which follows immediately, on the church grounds.

The Hymns of Dixieland is a group of experienced Dixieland musicians first formed in the 1960's who play in 20 to 30 churches each year. They only play hymns and they have played for churches and group throughout northern Ohio and southern Michigan.

Sunday's worship will include old favorites such as "What a Wonderful World," "Down By the Riverside," "The Old Rugged Cross," and "When the Saints Go Marchin' In."

Faith Community Presbyterian Church is located at 44400 West Ten Mile Road, across from the Novi Police station. Worship services are held at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. The picnic which follows is free and open to all worshippers. For more information call the church at (248) 349-2345.

Faith Community preschool takes adventure under the sea

The Faith Community Preschool celebrated the end of their school year last week (May 30th - June 2nd) with an "Under the Sea Camp" for current 3 & 4 year-old preschool students. The children studied various sea creatures through various art projects, songs, crafts and activities. They also related butterflies, which they watched go through the various stages of metamorphosis during the final weeks of school.

Friday, the final day of camp, was filled with fun activities with highlights being a Moon Walk, a visit from the Novi Fire Department, ice cream and a variety of outdoor games.

The preschool is housed in Faith Community Church on 10 Mile Road. The traditional preschool program includes a Little Learners class for two-year-old children and a parent and classes



Ethan Nusbaum, John Prisky and Jason Robson

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OPINION

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Novi News

Cal Stone
EDITORGrace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGERRichard Ferberg
EXECUTIVE EDITORRichard Ramholt
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

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

WHERE WE STAND

Bowman's proposal: City shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth

Blair Bowman has set his sights on a new project in the city.

The owner of Rock Financial Showplace in Novi wants to build 107 homes of about 3,000 square feet with detached garages on just over 25 acres east of Dixon Road and north of 12 Mile Road just west of Novi Road.

The land, once an orchard, currently has only six homeowners and is contaminated with arsenic. The landowners can't afford to clean up the soil, estimated at almost \$2 million.

Bowman has agreed to pay for half the cleanup, with the other half being funded through the Oakland County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

If approved by city, county and state officials, this program would pay for other half the cleanup with the agreement that a portion, or increment, of property tax dollars in the future would go back into the program as repayment.

This arrangement, known as tax increment financing or TIF, has been used in such projects as the multi-million-dollar Vistcon Village in Van Buren Township.

The developer has also agreed to donate \$250,000 to the city for parkland if his proposal is approved.

The major stumbling block seems to be the number of homes per acre that Bowman is requesting. The land's current R-A zoning allows less than one home per acre, with the city's master plan suggesting a slightly higher density at 1.65 homes per acre.

Bowman is proposing just over four homes per acre, which he says represents fewer homes than neighboring developments — Carlton Forest Condominiums to the east and Liberty Park to the west.

Homeowners currently living on the Dixon Road Properties can't sell their homes because of the arsenic contamination, which by law they would have to disclose to any potential buyer. Thus, they need Bowman to purchase their properties so they can vacate the contaminated land.

Planning commission members are not comfortable with the number of homes being requested on the property as it is their charge to enforce zoning ordinances and uphold the city's master plan. Plus, city council made it one of their priorities in this year's goal-planning sessions to reduce the number of high-density residential projects.

If planning commission does not give a positive recommendation on the project to city council, the elected body can vote in opposition to that decision. It's happened in the past.

To let Bowman develop this property seems to be a win-win for the city, the developer and the homeowners. We doubt another developer will be willing to offer nearly as much, and the alternative of doing nothing seems ridiculous.

Clarification:

In the recently published "Novi Community Guide 2006," the Advertising Index should have indicated David A. Woody is a dentist and listed the business as "David A. Woody, D.D.S."

To the graduating class of 2006, a heartfelt congratulations

It's hard to believe after 13 years of toiling away in classrooms ranging from kindergarten to advanced robotics and everything in between, you're finally going to take the long walk with your peers and receive your diploma.

No doubt 13 years ago this seemed like something that was impossible. Most of you had trouble learning your ABCs or how to count to 10 without skipping that pesky seven.

Finger painting was what you were destined to do — perhaps, for those artists out there, it's a dream that they've never given up on. Reading? C'mon, that's not even funny!

It wasn't long after that school became even more complicated. Math. Social Studies. Phonics. Really, does the number of apples versus oranges really matter?

You're not going to use this stuff in real life! And who cares what the capitol of Ohio is? We live in MICHIGAN for crying out loud and, frankly, we don't care what our state capitol is, either! When is show and tell?

You brought your Terrage Mustang Ninja Turtle to show everyone and they've never given up on. Reading? C'mon, that's not even funny!

Each year the work just kept piling up. It wasn't long before the realization that growing up isn't cool hits you when recess is revoked and the day is packed with even more learning. To complicate things, boys become interested in girls and vice versa and suddenly algebra and history don't really rank too high on the list of priorities. Strangely enough, biology is still of interest...

But life slows down to a creeping halt when high school starts. Each year seniors depart the building, enjoying freedom and escaping into the big, awe-inspiring world. Lowly freshman still have four more years left. That's a long time when you're only 14 so it's almost 30-percent of your life — see, math does come in handy.

School is harder than ever and popular isn't even a word that is allowed to be associated with underclassmen. Seriously, it's in the code of conduct and the principal is strict about enforcing it.

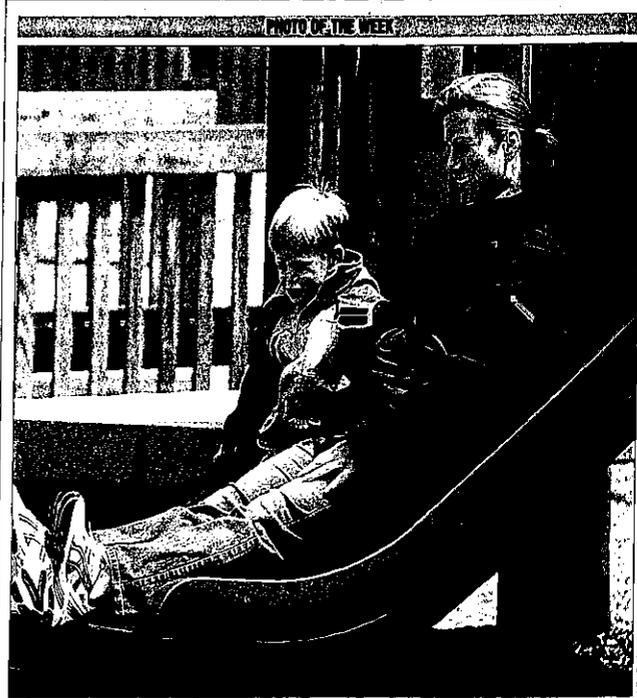
How students ever make it through these last years of high school had always been a mystery until a study, done via the cooks in the cafeteria, discovered the secret: Friends. They were the bond that held the crew together. The glue that made the ridiculous projects in art class stick together. The math was easy — despite all the variables — because the more friends a student had the better high school was.

It was friendship that got you through that physics exam and friendship that made you practice your speech for class instead of just winging it like you wanted. It was a friend who dared you to try the seven-bean casserole. It was a friend

who threw the spit wad on the bus and pointed at you when the burly kid with the full beard stood up to discover the source. Friendship helped you conquer gym class and your fear of a rubber dodge ball and it was friendship that helped you get over your heartbreak when your first love called it quits.

As the graduates of Novi High School prepare to walk — no running, thank you — to the blasting bass of pomp and circumstance to receive their long-awaited diplomas, they should take a moment to reflect on the friendships that have helped them get through school. Some are still strong while others have waned in the passing years, but they're all equally important.

Take a moment to find those friends. Congratulate them. Thank them. You won't be seeing much of



Chillin'
Taking a short trip together during a sunny but cool Thursday afternoon, Jennifer Butterfield and her son Brendan, 3, drop down a slide at Novi's Community Sports Park on Eight Mile Road.

LETTERS

Here we go again

The August primary elections are just two months away, and problems with the voting machines haven't gone away yet. Here in Oakland County, Ruth Johnson, County Clerk/Registrar of Deeds reports the county's new voting machines that were supposed to solve problems have actually "become a source of problems." The county experienced problems with the machines in the May school election and had to break out the old machines to recount ballots.

The company producing the machines, Election Systems and Software (ES&S) was originally named AIS which merged with Business Records Corp. and then changed the name to ES&S. AIS was founded in 1996, and during the same year, Chuck Hagel (R), then a candidate for the Senate, didn't disclose he was still Chairman of AIS. This bit of information had been printed in "The Hill" in January, 2003.

It's been six years since the 2000 presidential debacle, and we still are in jeopardy of not having all our votes counted due to certain voters being disenfranchised along with not having standardized voting machines across the country that actually work and leave a paper trail — instead the voting

machines are produced by questionable companies.

How long are we going to put up with this? Jimmy Carter and others have gone to other countries to register their elections to make sure they are fair. It seems like we need an unbiased county from another country to monitor ours.

Although this is an outrage, I still urge every citizen to exercise their right to vote. Not doing so only encourages more corruption.

Linda Koch
Midland

Still a big winner

This letter is to thank everyone in Novi (and Northville and other places) for voting for me in the Briggs & Stratton Diamonds in the Rough contest. I also want to thank the Novi News for writing the stories about me in the newspaper. I liked the picture and the articles. Even though I did not win the grand prize (a girl from Boston lol), I still had a lot of fun entering the contest and am glad to be a regional winner. My team can see the \$5,000 for our field at Maybury Park. Thank you again to everyone for voting for me.

Bill Bowman, Sr.
Farmington

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Generally, no more than one letter per month by the same author will be published. Letters must be received by noon

Tuesday to be printed in the Thursday edition. **Mail:** Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167 **E-mail:** cstona@gannett.com **Fax to:** (248) 349-9832

COMMENTARY

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

Tax changes won't fix state

Until this year, I had never before attended the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual policy conference on Mackinac Island. So I was both interested and curious last weekend as I walked up the ill-fated hill to the magnificent porch of the Grand Hotel.

"Policy conference" thinly disguises what is in fact an enormous schmooze fest, punctuated by cocktails and the finest sort of hors d'oeuvres you'll ever see. The crowd included some 1,700 "moves and shakers," many of them legends mostly in their own minds.

On the surface it might seem Michigan's contribution to the art of conspicuous consumption. But in fact many of the attendees are genuinely significant folks — and MacKinac turned out to be a wonderfully efficient way to visit with a lot of important people who collectively will determine much of Michigan's future.

But I also learned that a politician up north is still a politician. Topic A, of course, was the elimination of the Single Business Tax and the discussion of what might replace it. The Tuesday before the conference, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson had submitted 372,604 voter petition signatures, easily topping the 234,206 required to win a place on the ballot for a statewide vote.

Insiders say it is almost certain enough of those signatures are valid to qualify it for the ballot. If that's so, that means the legislature can vote to eliminate the SBT any time this year without a veto from Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

But going to without replacing much of that revenue could mean chaos. The SBT produces \$1.9 billion of tax revenue per year, a hefty chunk of the state's \$9.3 billion general fund.

Also before the conference started, Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkenka (R-Grandville) and House Speaker Craig DeRoche (R-Novi) appointed a special six-member legislative committee to re-

commend what kind of business taxes will replace the SBT, and how much revenue they should be expected to generate for the state.

The committee will be co-chaired by Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) and Rep. Fulton Sheen (R-Flatwell). Other members are Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Zeeland), Rep. Andy Dillon (R-Redford) and Sen. Alan Sanborn (R-Richmond) and Sen. Duze Thomas (D-Detroit).

The committee is supposed to report by Dec. 1. Cassis says they'll get input from various interest groups, especially the business community and the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, look at the tax structures of other high growth states, listen to experts and hold hearings around the state.

That sounds fine and high minded. But all the talk — I mean ALL the talk — on the island was that the committee, the Chamber of Commerce

and various important politicians such as Patterson and Republican gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos are already working feverishly on a set of proposals that would only partly replace the lost SBT revenue, and yield a net business tax cut at the end of the day of between \$400 and \$500 million a year.

There are three areas of concern about all this: Process, substance and politics. As to process, it seems very strange to me that a small committee of six legislators, five of them Republican, is going to oversee the biggest change in business taxes of our times with only a thin veneer of public participation.

Sure, there is lots of talk about transparency just now. Don't believe any of it. But going to without replacing much of that revenue could mean chaos. The SBT produces \$1.9 billion of tax revenue per year, a hefty chunk of the state's \$9.3 billion general fund.

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One conference participant who runs a mid-sized consulting firm in Lansing told me that he figures the tax reduction for his company will amount to a mere \$700 a year. "How's that going to change whether I decide to stay in Michigan?" he asked.

The state has faced each year for the past five years a budget that is chronically and structurally out of balance to the point where it is programmed to turn up deficits in excess of \$1 billion — every year.

Michigan businesses are already scheduled for \$575 million in SBT cuts already negotiated between Granholm and GOP legislative leaders. The state has cut taxes some \$4 billion since 1998.

Do we really need another \$500 million in business tax cuts when the state has slashed spending for infrastructure, for revenue sharing with local governments and for colleges and universities? Frankly, I doubt it.

Politically, it's remarkable how one-sided this discussion has become. One side, mainly the Republicans and the Chamber of Commerce, is talking as though a \$500 million business tax cut is the only thing that is going to restore our economy to perfect health.

And there's nothing whatsoever coming from the other side. The Democrats are scared stiff at being labeled in favor of higher taxes, while the cities, hospitals and universities have been largely silent.

What's most appalling is that there is nobody in the middle who is trying to assemble and consider the evidence in a fair-minded way. It's just another illustration of the fact that our politics today are driven by the extremists of either side.

In this case, the tax-out zealots of the right are in the saddle. And the tragedy is that the concerns of ordinary people, those who may not love taxes but who desperately want good schools and good streets, are largely being trampled on or just plain ignored.

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



Phil Power

As to substance, it's fascinating that all the spin — ALL the spin — is around how important a \$500 million business tax cut is to the economic climate in our

Time to start thinking about dad's day

Yes, the Redwings took an early bow out of the hockey, but that doesn't mean you can't cheer dad up with a copy of "Ice Warriors," a DVD collector's edition with hours of footage on Detroit's hockey team. Footage from the squad's trip to Russia and Emmy nominations should make Father's Day a memorable one. Pick up a copy at Play It Again Sports (Novi) Road, just north of 10 Mile Road.

If dad would rather have something great to eat, take him to Volare Restaurant's pig roast and barbecue in downtown Wixom from noon to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 18. The cost is \$25-\$12 for kids 12 and under. Pig, sausage, chicken, ribs, burgers, salads, corn on the cob, beans. "I'm getting hungry" says dad! You'll have a ball for reservations, though — (248) 960-7771.

If your pop is young, hip (and in good shape), drag him over to Modern Skate Park

in Fountain Walk for the national "Go Skateboarding Day" on Wednesday from noon to 9:30 p.m. (for all ages) and 9:30 p.m. to midnight for those 20 and older. Best of all, IT'S FREE! If you're new to the sport, team-sponsored riders will be on hand to assist with general instructions, as well as showing off their own talents. You have to fill out a waiver if you're going to skate, and you can download that at www.modernskate.com by clicking on "Skate Park." Give them a call if you need more info — (248) 735-4446.

OK, so you've taken care of Father's Day, but don't neglect mom. The Gardeners of Northville & Novi are selling tickets for the NO-NO'S (get it?) Gardening Adventure on Saturday, July 15. You can pick them up at Anglie Nursery, Gardenviews and the Water Wheel Health Club. Or, go online at www.gardensnorthville-novi.org. Call (248) 348-1946 for more info.

Congratulations to Clay Pearson on being named Novi's new city manager. I think council made a good decision, and I look forward to hearing Clay's vision at the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce luncheon Wednesday.

Thad McCotter, our U.S. Representative for the 11th District, spoke at last week's rotary luncheon. He gave his audience a talk that went with that much knowledge. I'd bet he was just a terror on the high school debate team. Thad also announced winners of the 25th Annual congressional Arts Competition, An Artistic Discovery. First place went to Yalinda Tambe, Novi High School, for "Kimonos Beauty 703." Second place went to Eliza Zuehget, home-schooled, for "Out on a Limb." Third place went to Alaina Woloszyn, Northville High School, for "Self Portrait." And Yukino Tambe was also the runner-up with "Unkited." Congrats to all four.

Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or by e-mail at cstone@gannett.com.

NOVI NEWS STAFF



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



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



Lisa Tince - Asst. Exec.
ltince@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 118



Laurie Lamay - Asst. Exec.
llamay@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 119



Pam Fleming - Staff Writer
pfleming@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 105



Matt Doran - Staff Writer
mdoran@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 109



Tracy Mishler - Staff Writer
tmishler@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 107



Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer
seggleston@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 104



John Heenan - Staff Photographer
jheenan@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 106



Kanni Whitehair - Receptionist
kwhitehair@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700



Maura Correas - Receptionist
mcorreas@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700



Billy Fraser - Graphic Designer
bfraser@gannett.com
(248) 349-1700, ext. 116

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CHILD ASTHMA RATES SKYROCKETING
In the past 20 years, asthma rates have climbed 40% in some parts of North America. What is causing the increase in asthma cases? While doctors are struggling to find the cause, it's becoming clear that "allergy" is the key. For further information call a free hotline at 1-800-469-3618. Our office is located at 24120 Meadowbrook Road, STE of pet dander, dust mites, molds, pesticides, grass, and pet dander. For medical treatment and advice for your allergy and asthma condition, visit www.allergyinfo.org

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CALENDAR

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

EVENTS

Second City Comedy Club

TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday, 8 and 10 p.m. Friday, 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday
 LOCATION: 42795 Grand River Avenue, across from Novi Town Center
 DETAILS: "Bohile Heads of State" is the theme for this month's shows. Tickets are \$15 on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and \$20 on Friday and Saturday.
 CONTACT: Visit www.ticketmaster.com or call (248) 645-6666

Northville Genealogical Society Individual Help

TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. Monday, ongoing and by appointment
 DETAILS: Master partners will be available to answer questions. Photos, personal, books and ornamental gifts will be for sale.
 CONTACT: Grace Wilfong, (248) 349-9079 or visit www.novnews.com/mings

Spring Plant Sale

DATE: Saturday
 TIME: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 LOCATION: Michigan State University Tulejale Education Center, 28115 Meadowbrook Road
 DETAILS: Master partners will be available to answer questions. Photos, personal, books and ornamental gifts will be for sale.
 CONTACT: (248) 347-3850, ext. 312

Michigan Humane Society Benefit

DATE: Saturday, June 10
 TIME: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 LOCATION: Motor City Harley-Davidson, 34900 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills
 DETAILS: Motor City Harley-Davidson is sponsoring this event to benefit for the Michigan Humane Society. Registration is \$10.
 CONTACT: (248) 473-7433

Democrats of West Oakland County Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, June 20
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Szwedski Coney Island, 32250 Novi Road
 CONTACT: (248) 624-7228

Farmers Market

DATE: Thursday through Oct. 26
 TIME: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 LOCATION: Northville Downs parking lot, corner of Seven Mile and Sheridan Road, Northville
 DETAILS: There are 100 stalls of fresh produce, plants, flowers, baked goods, garden art, crafts and home accessories available. This is sponsored by the Northville Chamber of Commerce and Preswick Estates of Northville Hills Golf Club.
 CONTACT: (248) 349-7640

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

Wisom City Council

DATE: Tuesday, June 13
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Wisom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail
 CONTACT: (248) 424-4557

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, June 19
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road

"Last Comic Standing" act opens tonight in Novi

Sean Kent will give four shows at Wise Guys, June 8-10

By Matt Doran
 STAFF WRITER

Wear a diaper. That's because stand-up comedian Sean Kent, featured on seasons one and three of the TV show "Last Comic Standing," is coming to Wise Guys Comedy Club in Novi for four shows, starting tonight. "I'll be bringing the funny, making people pee their pants hopefully," Kent said. "I recommend not a lot of drinks. It's like surgery." Kent described his act as "edgy" and said he keeps it fresh by talking about current events and telling jokes a little differently every time. While he does-

n't swear a "copious amount," audience members should come ready to hear adult material, he said. Kent said he often gets an "Oh my God, I can't believe he said that," reaction. "People are exhilarated at the end of it," he said. "I don't think I'm that observant. I tend to view society more at large and where we're going. I don't take (stuff) too seriously."

Behind the scenes in TV land

A former writer for the TV show "The Best Damn Sports Show Period," Kent released his first CD last year, entitled "Sex, Drugs, and Politics," and said it is being played on satellite radio. XM Radio called it an "instant classic," he said. Working on the TV show was enjoyable, Kent said. "That was a lot of fun, because it was immediate," he said. "We could make TV every day."

Awards Ceremony

DATE: Tuesday, June 20
 TIME: 7:30 a.m.
 LOCATION: Edgewood Country Club, 8399 Coanmore Road, Commerce Township
 DETAILS: Oakland Charter Network Business Card Exchange/Health Fair
 DATE: Wednesday, June 28
 TIME: 8:30-2:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Club Vention, 29110 John R. Madison Heights

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

DATE: Tuesday
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0419

Novi Schools

Last Day for High School Seniors
 DATE: Wednesday
 LOCATION: Novi High School graduation
 DATE: Saturday
 LOCATION: Cropview Area, Oak Road, Plymouth
 Last day of school
 DATE: Thursday, June 15
 First day of 2006-2007 school year
 DATE: Monday, Aug. 28

BUSINESS

Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce Events

Membership Luncheon
 DATE: Wednesday, June 14
 TIME: 11:30 a.m., registration; lunch to follow
 LOCATION: Bamboo Club Asian Bazaar, Fountain Walk Shopping Center
 DETAILS: The cost is \$15 per person. Mayor David Lanly and Novi's new city manager, Clay Pearson, will be in attendance. Reservations are required by June 12.
 CONTACT: Whitney, (248) 347-4622

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Events

LOCATION: 305 N. Pontiac Trail, Ste. B, Walled Lake
 CONTACT: (248) 624-2826
 Morning Connection
 DATE: Thursday, June 14
 TIME: 9 a.m.
 LOCATION: Creston, 3000 Commerce Crossing Road, Commerce Township
 Membership Breakfast and

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group

TIME/DATE: 8:30 a.m., Third Thursday of every month
 LOCATION: Walsh College, Troy Campus
 DETAILS: Walsh Business Leadership Institute invites women who own or partners in, or work for family businesses. Items discussed will be common issues and share solutions in a non-threatening, non-competitive, non-sales routine. Registration required.
 CONTACT: An Hulet, email juhulet@walshcollege.edu

GOLF OUTINGS

Novi Rotary 21st Annual Charity Golf Outing

DATE: Thursday, June 15
 TIME: 10 a.m. shotgun start
 LOCATION: Oak Pointe Country Club, 4500 Oak Drive, Brighton
 DETAILS: The cost is \$140 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, unlimited range balls, lunch and dinner. There will also be an auction, raffle, cash bar and prizes.
 CONTACT: (248) 476-4977

Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing

DATE: Wednesday, July 12
 TIME: 9 a.m., registration; 10 a.m. shotgun start
 LOCATION: Links of Novi, 50395 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: The cost is \$98 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, steak dinner, goodie bags, door prizes and a raffle. Sponsorships are available.
 CONTACT: (248) 347-4622

Novi Lions Club Golf Outing

"Shoplifting food"

Kent, 32, moved to Los Angeles more than 10 years ago in hopes of pursuing a serious acting career. Instead, he ended up working in a coffee shop, trying to make ends meet and "shoplifting food." After observing some terrible open-mic stand up routines, Kent decided he could do it better. The first time he did open mic comedy he was so nervous he threw up. Nowdays, Kent said he is more comfortable on stage than he is in real life. "Once I went on stage, I'd never felt anything that good," he said. It takes five years to get good at stand-up comedy, Kent said. He estimated 90 percent of the jokes he writes are inspired by on-stage experience. "I have no official process," he said. "I can't sit at a computer and do it."

No laughing matter

In 2002, Kent was diagnosed with lymphoma. After five months of treatment, it was declared in remission. However, on the first season of Last Comic Standing, Kent said he developed a severe cough, and doctors discovered his cancer had returned. Over the course of a year, Kent received chemo therapy and a bone marrow transplant. He said he has been told he should be his own best friend. "I've had to be his own best friend," he said. "I've had to be his own best friend."

Valuation Conference

DATE: Thursday, June 15
 TIME: 8:30 a.m.-4:40 p.m.
 LOCATION: Doubletree Hotel-Novi, 27000 Sheridan Drive
 DETAILS: This conference is sponsored by the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. Registration is required.
 CONTACT: (888) 473-4273 or visit www.michcpa.org

Expectant Parent Class

DATE: Monday through June 26
 TIME: 6-8 p.m.
 LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
 DETAILS: This class will include information on childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby and caring for ill children. The cost is \$25. Registration is required.
 CONTACT: (248) 858-4003

Providence Center for the Healing Arts

LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
 CONTACT: (248) 465-5455
 Colored Pencil Workshop
 TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
 DETAILS: This is a free class. Artist in Residence
 TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m. first and third Thursday of every month
 DETAILS: Join Artist-in-Residence May Ours Tevens and experiment with drawing, pastels, watercolor, Chinese brush painting, mixed media and collage.

CLASSES

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Show details

Novi Public Library Hours
 LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
 HOURS: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday (closed during the summer)
 DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
 CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Paints, Glazes, Scales and Tapes

DETAILS: Brochures describing the 2006 Summer Reading Program for students in fourth grade and below are available in the library. Sign-up begins Monday, June 19.

Creature Feature

DETAILS: The summer reading program for students going into the 5th grade through the summer. Sign-up begins Monday, June 19.

Ronald McDonald

DATE: Monday, June 19
 TIME: 11 a.m.
 DETAILS: Ronald McDonald will be at the library to help kick off the summer reading program.

Magie with Thomas Plankard

DATE: Wednesday, June 21
 TIME: 7 p.m., ages 4 and up; 7 p.m. all ages
 DETAILS: Registration is not required.

Drop-In Story Time

DATE: Thursday, June 22
 TIME: 10:30 a.m.
 DETAILS: Age 4 and up are invited to join in this story-time. Registration is not required.

Teen Volunteer Orientation

DATE: Wednesday and Thursday
 TIME: 4:30-5 p.m.
 DETAILS: All teens who signed up to help with the 2006 Summer Reading Program must attend one of these sessions.

Library Board Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, June 21
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center, Novi
 DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.

Walled Lake Library Events

LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
 CONTACT: (248) 624-3772
 Weekly Writers Hours
 TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m.,

program. Cost is \$5 for Novi residents and for those ages 25 and up; \$6 for non-residents.
 CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
 HOURS: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday (closed during the summer)
 DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
 CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

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Walled Lake Library Events

LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
 CONTACT: (248) 624-3772
 Weekly Writers Hours
 TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m.,

Sixth Annual "Hogs for Cats and Dogs" Michigan Humane Society Adoption/Fund-raiser

DATE: Saturday
 TIME: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 LOCATION: Motor City Harley-Davidson, 34900 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills
 DETAILS: Mobile Adoption Unit, help animals by donating food and supplies; breakfast at 9 a.m. and refreshments throughout the day provided by Gus O'Connors; meet Michigan Humane Society cruelty investigators; 12:30-3 p.m. observation open to all biker depart from Motor City Harley-Davidson at 10 a.m., with the last bike to fly 3 p.m. Registration \$10 or \$5 with donation of a "wish list" item.
 CONTACT: (248) 473-7433 for bike info, to make a donation or ask about sponsorships; contact Donna Hamner, 42875, Grand River Avenue, Suite 201, Novi, MI, 48375, (248) 465-0083.

Back Pain Class

DATE: Thursday, June 8
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Oakland Physical Therapy, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Suite B124
 DETAILS: This free class is on preventing low back pain, especially pain that interferes with daily living, sports or occupation. Registration is required.
 CONTACT: (248) 380-3530

Health Fair

DATE: Sunday, June 11
 TIME: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 LOCATION: St. John Providence Park Hospital, 47601 Grand River Ave.
 DETAILS: St. John Providence Park Hospital in Novi and the Michigan Association of Physicians of Indian Origin are sponsoring this event. The goal is to improve the health of the local community by offering health information, screenings and tests. Gurdhara's Sikh Temple of Novi is supporting this fair. Pre-registration is required.
 CONTACT: St. John Health Connect, (888)-440-7325

Health Expo

DATE: Saturday, June 17
 TIME: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: Dr. Vicky Savas, a cardiologist at Providence Hospital, is sponsoring this event. It will include a variety of health screenings and tests. The cost is \$30. Registration is required.
 CONTACT: (248) 356-5033 or 583-733-1241, or e-mail savasvick@providence.com

Yoga Classes

TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday-6:7 p.m. Wednesday, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Friday
 LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi
 DETAILS: The cost is \$10/walk-in; \$80/10-class card; \$70/7-week evening session.

St. John Providence Park Hospital-Novl Classes

LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Avenue
 CONTACT: (888) 440-7325, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; for more information, Lou Martin, (248) 465-4505 or e-mail, lou.martin@stjohn.org
 TIME: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 DETAILS: These free discussions include disaster, a health presentation and an update on the hospital construction progress. Reservations are required. Attention Deficit Disorder
 DATE: Tuesday, June 20, Dr. Vinicio Gavini
 A new hospital in Novi - what's coming
 DATE: Wednesday, July 19, Rob Casler, President
 Children's Immunizations
 DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 22, Dr. Vinicio Gavini
 Looking Younger - Non-Surgical Treatments
 DATE: Thursday, Sept. 21, Dr. M. Gowda
 Looking Younger - Surgical Procedures
 DATE: Thursday, Oct. 19, Dr.

Women's Prayer Support

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

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATE: Friday, Service of each month
 TIME: 4 p.m.
 LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Road
 DETAILS: This service is open to all faiths and is a service of hope.

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 Novi Community School District invites qualified contractors, including MB/E/W/S/B/E firms, to submit proposals/bids for the above-referenced project for the following Bid Categories:

3A - Sitework & Utility Work
BIDS ARE DUE AT 2:00 PM LOCAL TIME ON Friday, June 16, 2006.
 On behalf of Novi Community School District, Skanska USA Building Inc. will receive sealed proposals for the above project at the construction managers main office, 26100 American Drive, Suite 200, Southfield, MI 48034, Attention: Chris Becker, Sr. Project Manager, until the stipulated bid opening date and time. Bids received after the stipulated date and time will not be considered and will be returned unopened. Bids will be opened at a public meeting to be convened at 3pm on 04/16/06 at Novi Community School District's Administrative Office, 26345 "Ten" Road, Novi, MI 48074. Bids must be clearly marked with the project name and bid category(ies).

All interested bidders may obtain copies of the drawings and specifications from West Side Reprographics (31880 Hills Tech Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331) upon request and upon providing a bid deposit of \$50 (written to Novi Community School District), Skanska USA Building Inc. will return all bid deposits to contractor(s) after bid date and when bid documents are returned to West Side Reprographics in good condition. A minimum of 5% bid security, either in the form of a Bid Bond or Cashiers' Check payable to Novi Community School District, must accompany each bid. In accordance with Michigan Compiled Laws Section 129.201, successful contractor(s) must obtain Performance and Payment Bonds for any Bid Category exceeding \$50,000. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be in an amount equal to the contract amount. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be solely for the protection of Novi Community Schools and Skanska USA Building Inc., as dual obligees. The Performance and Payment Bonds shall be established by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Michigan and be filed in the Public Register or have an AM Best Rating of B+ or better. As required by MCL 380.1667, all bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement of any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the Bidder and any member of the Board of Education or the Superintendent of the School District. The Owner will not accept a bid that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement. Novi Community School District and Skanska USA Building Inc. reserve the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part and to waive irregularities or irregularities in bids and to accept any bid which is in the Owner's best interest. Voluntary alternatives may be a basis for award of a contract. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
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ONGOING

SWOCC Studio Tours
 LOCATION: 3300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington
 DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios, local community television studio.
 CONTACT: Melissa Cohn, (248) 473-2840

Novi Concert Band Rehearsals

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

Rock Financial Showplace

The Rock Financial Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Avenue, Call (248) 348-5600 or visit <http://rockfinancialshowplace.com> for more information.

Spa and Backyard Expo

DATE: June 15 - 18, 2006
 TIME: Thurs - Sat 11 - 9, Sun, 11 - 6
 DETAILS: This is a perfect time to buy your dream spa. Great deals to be found. No admission for this event; parking \$5. Located in Hall C.
 CONTACT: Greg Katz - 517-230-0123 or www.spaexpo.net

Prayer Service

DATE: Friday, Service of each month
 TIME: 4 p.m.
 LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Road
 DETAILS: This service is open to all faiths and is a service of hope.

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- LAKESIDE 13909 Hall Road (Across from Lakeside) 588.532.8035
- LIVONIA 31629 Plymouth Road (1 block West of Merriman) 734.425.1500
- NOV TOWN CENTER (Near Marvin's South of I-96) 248.348.5494
- ROSELVILLE 32038 Grifith (Across from Macomb Mall) 586.294.8360
- ROYAL OAK 28074 N. Woodward (South of 12 Mile) 248.414.6909
- SOUTHGATE 17820 Eureka (Between Reack & Allen Rd.) 734.281.7766
- TAYLOR 23385 Ecorse (1/2 Mile East of Telegraph) 313.291.3603
- TAYLOR 23650 Eureka (Near Southland Mall across from Value City) 734.287.0454
- TROY 3536 Rochester Road (Bat. Big Beaver & Wattles) 248.743.1068
- WARREN 26645 Hoover (Hoover & 11 Mile Road) 588.754.1500
- YPSILANTI/ANN ARBOR 4583 Washtenaw (1/4 Mile East of US-23) 734.975.9200
- ANN ARBOR 2131-W. Stadium (South of W. Liberty) 734.222.9472

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NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wildcats well represented at finals page 3B

SOCCER PHOTOS:
Novi topples foes, wins District page 5B

SPORTS

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1B Novi News

(248) 349-1700 www.novinews.com fax (248) 349-9032

Thursday, June 3, 2006

20-0

Wildcats roll through district for another title

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

One thing is for certain, Novi's soccer team sure knows the intricacies of winning.

The squad notched three victories in last week's district tournament to secure the title. They beat Farmington, 7-1, before upending West Bloomfield, 5-2. In the district final the squad beat Farmington Mercy, 8-1.

The team is ranked first in the state, first in several Midwest polls and high in some national polls.

"Rankings mean nothing to us," Novi coach Brian O'Leary said. "We don't care what outsiders think about our team. We know that any team is beatable and the second a team thinks they are not, then they will lose."

Novi obviously hasn't thought itself unbeatable yet. The squad's 7-1 performance against Farmington came from goals from Emily Esbrook (2), Katie Chaklos (2), Stephanie Crawford (2) and Veronica Salens.

Against West Bloomfield, the Wildcats were stuck in a game that didn't seem like it wanted to end, being delayed twice due to lightning before finally being called with 13 minutes left on the clock. Novi out shot their foes, 24-4, but had trouble with some opportunities despite winning, 5-2.

Goals were scored by Stephanie Janssens, Jenna Carstio, Katie Walker (2) and Crawford. Assists went to Chaklos (2), Lauren Marehino (2) and Crawford.

Novi finished off their district title run and earned their 20th victory this year with a 8-1 drubbing of the Mercy Martins. Novi found scoring from Esbrook (2), Lauren Treher (2), Crawford, Katie Walker, Chaklos and Lauren Eitel. Assists were from Crawford (2), Kellie Walker, Katie Walker, Janssens, Chaklos and Megan Burns.

Novi now plays in the regional tournament, which they'll be hosting this week. They played Tuesday (after presstime) against Troy Athens.

O'Leary said it doesn't matter that his team is in the playoffs. They're not changing their strategies from the regular season.

"We don't do anything different now than we have ever done in the past," he said. "We focus on our next opponent, because that is all that matters."



Emily Esbrook finds an open Stephanie Crawford to help the Wildcats run away with a lightning-delayed victory over West Bloomfield last week. Novi is now 20-0.

Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Quick Hits

Lightning strikes thrice!

The Novi Wildcats soccer team could only shake their heads as they picked up their bags and headed indoors during the district tournament semifinal game against West Bloomfield last week.

The squad had two 30-minute delays in their game due to lightning. It's a rule that is in place to protect players, but the officials were definitely a little jumpy. Once the flash of a photographer's camera went off and one of the officials started the process of delaying the game when Novi coach Brian O'Leary pointed out the source of the light.

But it wasn't much longer that lightning did flash in the distance, delaying the game for the second time. When the third strike flashed off in the distance, the game was called with about 13 minutes left and Novi comfortably in the lead, 5-2.

Congrats, Clislo

Kevin Clislo sure knows how to pick his teams. Back in high school he led the Novi Wildcats football and baseball teams to Kensington Valley Conference championships. Now, as a member of the Michigan Wolverines, he helped them to a Big 10 championship and a run in the national playoffs.

When the Novi News went to press, Clislo was busy honing his skills in Georgia in the NCAA tournament.

Regional advantage

Not that we're complaining, but the Novi Wildcats soccer team must be thrilled they have home field advantage throughout the regional tournament. With grass, the squad will be able to negate the speed of many teams while getting to play in front of the home crowd.

It's the last stretch of the tournament the Wildcats will play on real turf. But, then again, their own speed will be increased if and when they get further in the playoffs and have the beauty of artificial turf beneath their cleats.

Graduation time

It's hard to believe it, but graduation is already here. Many Novi athletes will be making the walk and heading off to start a new chapter of their lives.

It's weird to see a lot of them go for sports writer Sam Eggleston. Most of them he has watched play since they were just freshmen.

To each and every graduate at Novi High School, we wish you the best as you start off on your new academic and, for some, athletic adventures. Thanks for all the great memories!

Coach Sill Classic

This Sunday at Novi High School, Novi welcomes back all 12 years of their lacrosse alumni to help play to raise money for The Coach Don Sill Memorial Lacrosse Scholarship.

The Coach Sill Classic will be played at 2 p.m. and will honor the memory of its late coach and founder, Don Sill.

Sixty former players including over 25 All-State recipients and more than 10 NCAA Division I, II and III athletes, ranging from the varsity program's inception in 1994 to this year's graduating class of 2006, have all come back to play for a person and a program that has meant so much to so many.

Any donation to the scholarship fund is accepted for admission into the game on Sunday. Gates open at 2 p.m. at Novi's lacrosse field.

All money raised during The Coach Sill Classic will be placed into a scholarship fund and awarded to a senior lacrosse player each year from now on. Co-Chair Sill's name.

The recipients of this year's scholarship are: Scott Moran, John Farnico, Jeff Kolb and Scott Smith.

continue on 4B

FIFTH IN THE STATE

Wildcats keep seedings, get best-ever finish

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

State Finals

The Novi Wildcats tennis team fared well in the state finals, finishing a best-ever fifth.

The squad's players had a great run but played some stiff competition. Each flight's loss came from either the eventual champion or the flight runner-up.

PLAYER	FLIGHT	FINAL FIVE FINISH
Roshan Ramchandran	1 singles	Champion
Vivek Athalya	2 singles	Runner-up
Kyle Goodman	3 singles	Runner-up
Mani Mahadevan	4 singles	Champion
Ryan Hofferman/Pyan Bell	1 doubles	Runner-up
Kerrin La/Ryan Goodman	2 doubles	Runner-up
Eric McQueen/Adam Doster	3 doubles	Champion
Jason Hsu/Brianham Kondipati	4 doubles	Champion

Heading in to the state tournament, Novi tennis coach Jim Hanson said anything his team was able to do was icing on the cake after they met their goal of just qualifying for the finals.

After a fifth-place finish in the state, Hanson and his team has proven that it's possible to bake a cake, ice it and eat it, too.

"I am so proud of the way the kids played," he said. "They kept their seedings and played their best tennis of the year."

The Wildcats finished a best-ever fifth in the state with a best-ever 16 points earned at the finals. Taking first was the unshakable juggernaut Ann Arbor Pioneer with 37 points. Taking second was Holland West Ottawa with 19 followed by Grosse Pointe South with 18 and Ann Arbor Huron with 17.

"We weren't too many points out of second place," Hanson said. "We wore right there in the mix. It was a really good tournament."

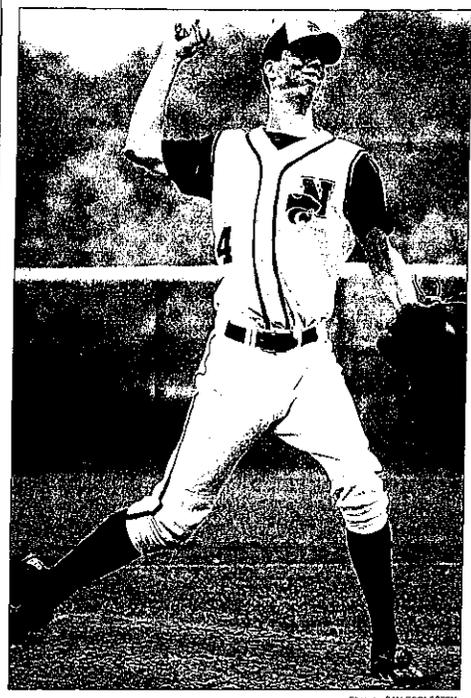
Novi returns nine players from this year's state finals team, including most of their singles lineup.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Novi's Vivek Athalya throws a forehand at a tennis ball as he competes in the regional tournament held inside at the Farmington Tennis Club.

Advertisement for Novi Public Library featuring logos for 'Serving Friends' and 'Serving Leaders'.



Wildcats lose in district tournament
Novi sophomore Tyler Scott fires a pitch toward home plate during a recent game. Novi bowed out of the district tournament with a loss against Catholic Central.

Wildcats fare well in state tennis

continued from 1B

The Wildcats weren't thinking about next year when they were at Midland for the finals though. Instead, they were focused on playing their best.

The Wildcats fared well in their match-ups, losing to either the flight champion or the runner-up in each flight.

At one singles, Roshan Ramachandran got a little revenge against Brighton's Joel Parrish, a player who beat Ramachandran twice this year. The game went three sets with Ramachandran winning, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5. The next round found him losing to the eventual champion.

In two singles, Vivek Athalye won two matches, his last against Grosse Pointe South's Patrick Radzinski, before falling to the flight runner-up.

Third-seeded senior Kyle Goodman, playing third singles, matched to the semi-finals with wins over players from Ulica Eisenhower and Ann Arbor.

"I'm really proud of them. They should be very proud, too."

*Jim Hanson
Novi Tennis Coach*

Hanson, his final match was a loss against runner-up Holland West Ottawa.

"Kyle's going to be very hard to replace next year," said Hanson. "He has played some outstanding tennis for us."

At fourth singles, second-seeded freshman Matt Malinowski marched through the bracket with wins over players from Grand Blanc, Saline and West Bloomfield. In the flight championship game he took on Ann Arbor Pioneer's Matt Mamah, the first-seeded player, and lost, 6-0, 6-3.

In the doubles flights, Novi's first team of Ryan Heffernan and Ryan Bell lost in their first match to runner-up Matt Prigora and Jim Dixon of Grosse Pointe, 6-3, 6-4.

The second doubles team of Ryan Goodman and Kevin Lai fared better, winning their first match against Josh Webb and Mike Farran of Holt, 6-2, 6-0, before falling to the eventual runner-up duo from Ann Arbor Huron.

Eric McQueen and Adam Doster lost their first match-up to eventual third doubles flight champions Denny Heichel and Ryan Megawick of Troy, 6-3, 7-5.

In the final flight, Novi earned two victories before falling to the eventual champions from Ann Arbor Pioneer. The team of Jason Hew and Goutham Kondapi beat teams from Holt and Troy to advance to the semi-final round where they lost to William Darwall and Zach Sullivan, 6-3, 6-0.

"I'm really proud of them," Hanson said. "They should be very proud, too."



Talk about bringing the Heat!
A come from behind 12-9 victory over the Grand Rapids Diamonds in the championship game of the Spring Break Challenge NIT qualifier tournament earned an invitation to the USSSA 9U World Series for the Novi Heat 9U baseball team. The Novi Heat came out on top of four Michigan 9U teams competing for the World Series berth April 29 and April 30 in Bettie Creek. The team will travel to St. Louis, Mo. in July to compete with teams from across the United States for the USSSA World Series championship. 2006 Novi HEAT 9U Baseball Team: Kneeling from left: Michael Minick, Charlie Richter, Ryan Moore, Jaylen Cooper, Brian Feger, Scott Combs. Standing from left: Michael Mitchell, Eric Marson, Michael Ninkovich, Kyle Garcia, Taylor Turner, Sam Estfan. Coaches from left: Assistant Coach John Ninkovich, Head Coach Tom Estfan, Assistant Coach Bob Mitchell.

Safety first with outdoor recreation

By John Mueller
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

With warm weather drawing people out of their homes, the sight of canoes and kayaks gliding along our area's rivers and lakes is a common one these days.

As much fun as it can be, there are hidden dangers that everyone involved needs to be reminded of as they prepare to hit the water this season.

On May 16 a Westland man died in the Huron River in Milford after his kayak capsized. The victim and his companion, who survived, had been kayaking close to the base of the dam located near the Milford Wastewater Treatment Plant west of the village limits.

The Huron River flows into our nearby Keok Lake, which as a part of the Island Lake State Recreation Area attracts many paddlers each spring and summer. It's a safe-looking and ideal setting for local outdoor lovers, but accidents can and do happen.

And contrary to what some may think, canoes and kayaks are just as susceptible to accidents as larger watercraft.

"People think, 'There's not a lot of moving parts to a canoe or a kayak, so what could go wrong?'" Oakland County Sheriff's Office Marine Division Sgt. Dan Tubb said.

"But when it comes to the water, you have to give the water a lot of respect," he added. "The data shows that a lot of our fatalities involve smaller watercraft like canoes and kayaks."

According to the American Canoe Association (ACA), there have been roughly 900 canoe, kayak- or raft-related fatalities in the last decade, and most of these undoubtedly could have been prevented had the individuals involved taken the right precautions prior to entering the water.

"It is extremely important to exercise caution and good judgment, even though the Huron River is in our back yard," said Steven Bailey, an ACA coastal kayak instructor and Milford resident. "Warm spring days can be deceptive. There is a large volume of fast-moving, very cold water here. There are a few things to keep in mind before hitting the river:



Joshua Vilhnen is fully prepared as he takes his canoe out recently.

■ Always wear a Personal Flotation Device. "This is abused all the time," said Heavenr Canoe Rental president Alan Heavenr, who rents boats out of the Island Lake State Recreation Area. "Sometimes, as soon as people go around the corner, they take off their life preservers." Which is a major no-no. If you buy your own canoe or kayak, be sure to also purchase a life jacket. And if you rent one, the company you rent from is obligated by law to provide life jackets. Strap on your PFD before getting into your boat; there's simply no excuse not to do it.

■ When on the water, avoid alcohol consumption. "Alcohol and water don't mix," Heavenr said. You may think that rowing under the influence of alcohol is safer than driving under the influence simply because a canoe or a kayak travels at a slower pace than an automobile. But the fact is, alcohol impairs your judgment, and good judgment is needed at all times when you're out on the water. Alcohol also slows reflexes, and when a dangerous situation arises on the river, you're going to need your reflexes to be at their sharpest.

■ Do not overload your vessel with people and/or supplies. Don't pile more people into your canoe or kayak than you're supposed to (this is usually two people per canoe and one person per kayak), and when it comes to

bringing extra stuff (blankets, coolers, fishing gear), bring only what you absolutely need.

■ Be aware that heavy rains can increase risks. Canoeing or kayaking near dams is an increased risk since the water flow can generate powerful undertows. This is especially true following recent rain, but the dangers of heavy rain aren't limited to dam areas. No matter where you are on the river, extra water can translate into extra (and dangerous) currents.

■ Seek instruction! Don't assume you know everything. "Some people will buy a canoe or a kayak with no idea of their skill level," Heavenr said. Flooding down a river in a canoe or a kayak may look and seem easy enough, but ignorance can lead to danger. Of the 900 or so deaths in the last 10 years, approximately 80 percent of them involved people who hadn't received safety instruction of any kind. Don't jump into a purchased or rented vessel until you know what you're doing; do the required reading or take a safety class first. This will make for a safer experience, both for you and other canoeists or kayakers.

John Mueller is a sports reporter for the South Lyon Herald. He can be reached by phone at (248) 625-1502 ext. 25 or by e-mail at jmueller@gannett.com.

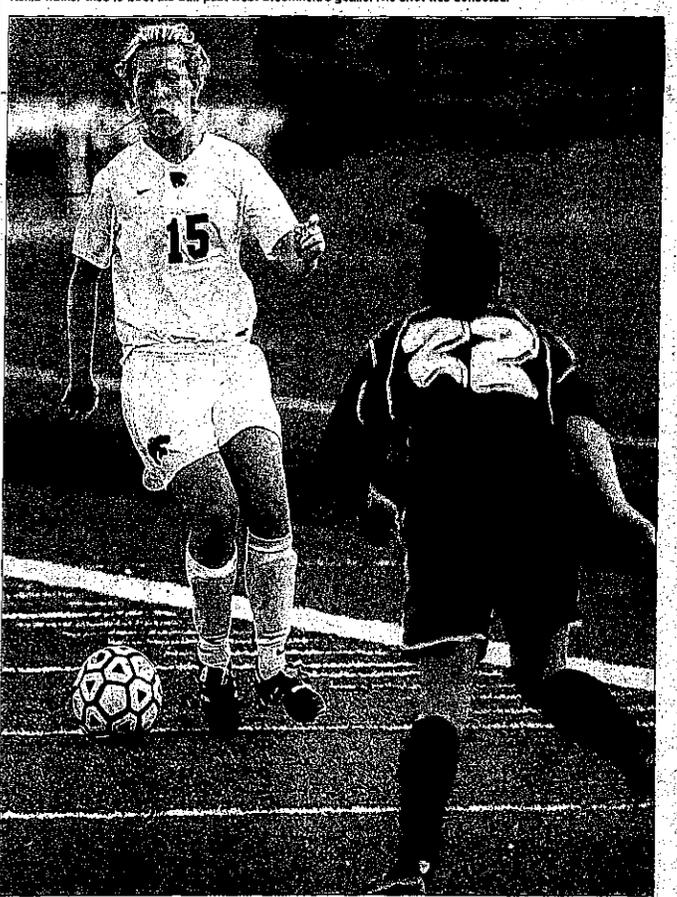
DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!



Jenna Carosio prepares to send a hard shot on goal during the district semifinal game against West Bloomfield.



Kellie Walker tries to boot the ball past West Bloomfield's goalie. The shot was deflected.



ABOVE: Novi's Shannon Cody backs down a defender in the district tournament as she prepares to make her move.

TOP LEFT: Katie Walker keeps her eye on the ball as she leads the Novi charge against West Bloomfield last week.

BOTTOM LEFT: Stephanie Janssens moves the ball against a West Bloomfield defender last Friday.

Photos by
**SAM
EGGLESTON**

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