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Page 1B

# Novi News

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007

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VOLUME 51 #53 50 CENTS



## With Honor

Ray Konas of Honor Guard post 1519 participates as an official flag bearer at Monday's Memorial Day Service. For more photos of The City of Novi Memorial Day Parade and Service, see page 4A.

Photo by MIKE SHUSTER/Special to the Novi News

## \$16 million question

### Library bond comes before council Monday

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Novi officials are about to move forward with plans to build a new library — but they've taken a step back in the search for a new library director.

The Novi Library Board of Trustees expects to ask the City Council Monday for approval to place a \$16 million bond on the November ballot. It would fund construction of a new library.

But the board — which was hoping to have a director in place this summer — failed to select a new director last month after two of the three finalists dropped out.

Once again, one of Novi's significant landmarks sits at a crossroads.

Officials are optimistic council members will greenlight the library-board's request and the bond will appear on the

**STORY CHAT**  
What do you think? Tell us at [WWW.NOVINews.COM](http://WWW.NOVINews.COM).

Continued on 3

## One family's battle with cancer

By Tracy Mishler  
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Logan Corrion is a survivor.

And though he is only three years old, he's already been through a great deal in his life.

Diagnosed at 18 months with a Wilms' tumor, Corrion has spent the majority of his life visiting doctors' offices and trying to be a normal little boy.

His mom, Kristen Corrion, said finding out her son had cancer was one of the hardest things she's ever had to go through.

"You never want to see your child go through this," said Corrion, a social worker at Novi High School. "I would have

changed places with him if I could. With something as simple as a finger poke, I would rather get it for him. He shouldn't have to go through this."

A Wilms' tumor is a cancer of the kidneys primarily affecting children.

According to the Pediatric Oncology Resource Center, Wilms accounts for about 7 percent of childhood cancer cases and 75 percent of the cases before age five.

"It's a fairly common type of cancer for kids and treatment regimen is well scripted," Corrion said. "The hospital staff made going to the doctors fun for Logan, so he wasn't scared or frightened."

Continued on 6

**NOVI RELAY FOR LIFE**  
**RELAY FOR LIFE**  
**FOR LIFE**

**A TEAM EVENT TO FIGHT CANCER**  
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Austin Scott & the Cowboy Band and silent auction.

## Remembering with Relay For Life

By Tracy Mishler  
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

It's a tradition for Connie Brohann to walk around the track in honor of her deceased husband, Joe.

"I've probably raised millions of dollars if thoughts had a price tag," she said. "I loved my husband dearly and every day I think of him and the times we shared."

The Novi resident said Relay For Life is the perfect event to honor her husband with a trip around the track, a

tradition she started five years ago.

Relay For Life is a time to celebrate those who have battled cancer, remember those who have passed on and get inspired to fight and find a cure.

The event is two days and is held in different communities throughout the United States by the American Cancer Society.

### Let the Relay begin

This year's Novi Relay For Life will be held at

Novi Middle School, from 10 a.m. Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday.

"The whole day serves to honor the survivors and families," said Barb Iovan, of the American Cancer Society. "The Relay For Life gives people a place to grieve and meet other survivors and caregivers. They are all inspiring."

Iovan said the Relay is made up of teams, with different members joining

Continued on 7

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## NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER



### • FRIDAY

Head over to The Detroit Sports Festival running 3 p.m. today through 4 p.m. Sunday at the Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. The event promises to be a sports lovers dream full of engaging historical exhibits, coaching and player clinics, sports equipment exhibitors, sports camps and interactive skill zones. There will also be a sports memorabilia show showcasing the best in collectibles with a line up of sports

celebrity appearances and autograph sessions. The show will also house the most complete sports theme midways ever assembled. The cost is \$10 and children 3 and younger are free. Parking is \$5.

### • SATURDAY

From 10 a.m. today through 10 a.m. Sunday join participants of Novi's Relay For Life at Novi Middle School, 49000 11 Mile Road. The annual event benefits cancer research and other American Cancer Society pro-

grams. The public is invited and special programming includes Austin Scott & the Cowboy Band and a silent auction.

### • SUNDAY

Looking for a place to worship? Turn to page 15A for a listing of area churches along with worship schedules and special programming. The City of Novi is home to many religious centers, ranging from Catholic to Baha'i Faith.



• **My Novi Bulletin Board**  
Novi's official events calendar. Page 14A.

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## SECOND FRONT PAGE

Thursday, May 31, 2007  
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# END GAME FOR WIXOM PLANT

**Landmark Ford facility closes today after 50 years**

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

An era ends today for Ford Motor Co. After 50 years of producing iconic cars like the Ford Thunderbird and Lincoln Continental, the automaker will close its landmark Wixom Assembly Plant.

The facility is one of nine Ford expects to close by the end of 2008 as part of its "Way Forward" turnaround plan, which is designed to bring production in line with the automaker's sinking market share.

The sprawling 4.7 million square-foot Wixom plant opened in 1957 and until recently employed more than 1,200 workers. Ford announced it would close the plant in January 2005. It sits on 320 acres at the intersection of Wixom Road and Interstate 96.

The plant's headcount and production have tapered off as consumers turned away from Ford products due to spiking gasoline prices and increased competition from import automakers.

Wixom City Manager J. Michael Dornan said the plant's closing will hurt the area, but is partially offset by growth in other sectors.

He said the Ford plant generated almost 50 percent of the city's revenue 15 years ago, but now it has fallen to 11 percent.

Dornan said Wixom is in talks with Ford about the future of the site, which is unclear at the moment.

Production of the Lincoln Town Car, the plant's final vehicle, will be shifted to St. Thomas, Ontario. The Canadian plant also builds the Mercury Grand Marquis and the Ford Crown Victoria, which like the Town Car, are large, rear wheel drive vehicles.

**A Storied Past**  
The Wixom plant has built a slew of popular cars over the last half century, including the Lincoln Mark series, the Lincoln LS and Ford's GT super car.

The facility was also among the select few able to build four different cars under one roof, according to the United Auto Workers, and won numerous awards over the years for its manufacturing practices.

But as Ford looked to remake itself to better compete in the cut-throat North American market, it became clear the Wixom plant was not part of its future, and two of its most recent cars, the LS and GT, are no longer produced.

The LS was once the flagship of the Lincoln brand, but was essentially replaced by the Lincoln MKZ, a smaller car built in Mexico off the same platform as the Ford Fusion and Mazda 6.

Ford is looking to trim about \$5 billion in operating costs and cut 25,000-30,000 North American manufacturing workers by the end of 2008.

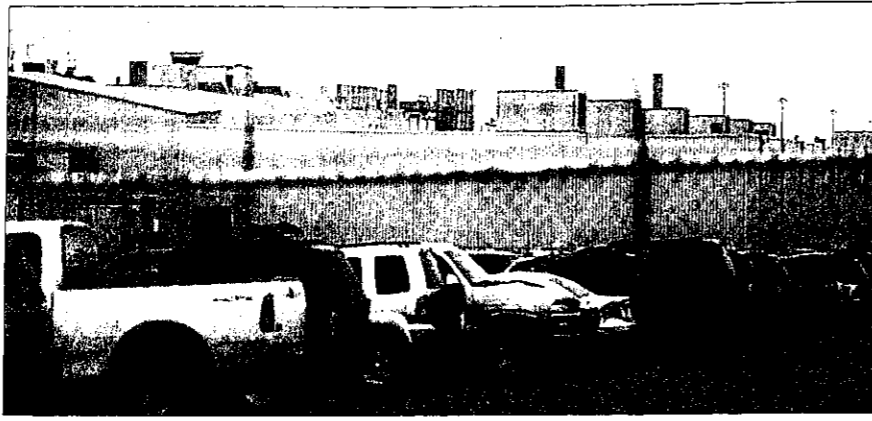
Ford also eliminated 14,000 salaried jobs.

Ford plants in St. Louis, Atlanta, and Windsor, which were earmarked for closure the same time Wixom was, have already been shuttered.

By the end of next year, Ford expects to have slashed its North American manufacturing capacity by 26 percent to 3.6 million vehicles, compared with 2005.

"These actions have painful consequences for communities and many of our loyal employees," Ford Executive Chairman Bill Ford said in a statement last fall when the company's "Way Forward Plan" was updated to include more cuts.

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



The Ford Wixom Assembly Plant is closing today. The 50-year-old plant most recently built the Lincoln Town Car.

**Open House - Saturday June 9, 11:00 am-3:00 pm**

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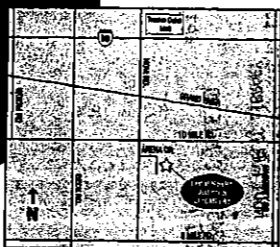
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### Library bond comes before council Monday

Continued from front

November ballot. But the campaign to drum up public support for the bond will be a bit rougher without the leadership a director would provide. A \$20 million bond proposal for library renovations failed in 2001.

There's no timetable for getting a new director in place, and the library board might wait until after the election in five months, Board President Robert Cutler said.

"The whole thing is still open, and I'm not sure when we're going to pick a director," he said.

Mary Ellen Mulcrone remains the interim director. She was the only candidate left after Chesterfield District Library Director Martin Lesardi and Norfolk, Va., Public Library Director Norman Mans dropped out.

The library board voted 6-1 to delay making the decision, with Cutler dissenting. He favored promoting Mulcrone immediately.

Former Novi Director Brenda Lasser retired in February. Cutler said the library board hopes to attract more resumes to build a new field of candidates this summer. It's also a tough time to be looking for a new director, he said, since many other districts in the area are searching for new leaders. Additionally, Michigan's slumping economy and housing market are posing obstacles.

"I think it's absolutely time for a new library," she said. "I think that this is a very reasonable proposal."

**What's next?**  
Officials are optimistic the

### The Library Bond: By the Numbers

• 299 to .342 — millage rate

• 20 years — the length of the bond

• \$68 — how much the owner of a \$400,000 home would pay annually

bond will win the support of the council, but after that it will face challenges. Most notably, the board reversed its original position and is now asking voters to approve a new library building.

Previously, library officials were pitching the bond as an extensive renovation, although most of the old structure would have been torn down.

A key selling point, library officials argue, is the cost will remain about the same, and the amount of the bond request isn't expected to change.

They also say money will be saved by not having to move library operations to a temporary facility. Under the new plan, the current building would stay open until the new library is completed. After construction finishes, the old library would be torn down.

The millage would be between .299 and .342 over its 20-year life. The owner of a \$400,000 home would pay about \$68 annually.

One council member, Terry Margolis, thinks the project has a good shot of garnering support in the community.

"I think it's absolutely time for a new library," she said. "I think that this is a very reasonable proposal."



Aimee Bailey looks at children's books with her daughter, Lauren, 3, at the Novi Public Library. Due to lack of space, the library's forced to stack books on top of shelves.

### Anniversaries

**The Hickeys**

Edward and Marion Hickey of Novi celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family dinner. They were married May 19, 1947 at St. David Church in Detroit. The couple met through their mothers, who were childhood friends. Both were born in Detroit.

Their children are Dan of Farmington, the late Sharon Lewis and her husband Jeff of Battle Creek, Kathryn and Chris Strand of Austin, Texas, Kevin and Ivy Hickey of Birmingham, Susan and Ray Jishi of Austin, Texas, David of Farmington, James of Livonia, and Ronald and Laura Hickey of Chokson. The couple is proud of their 13 grandchildren.

**The Riegners**

Mr and Mrs. Bernie Riegner and Arlene Riegner celebrated their 50th anniversary with family in the Bahamas last January, and will again on May 25 with family and friends at the Tawas River Club.

The couple was married on May 25, 1957, in Dearborn. Bernie and Arlene were both born in Dearborn. He was the CEO of Riegner and Associates. They moved to Northville in 1973.

Their children are Bryan and Nancy Riegner of Northville, Charles and Dale Chandler of Livonia, Audrey and Mike Schmitt of Libertyville, Ill., and Shirley and Mike Rogers of Northville.

Their 10 grandchildren are Rick, Meghan, Bill, Katelyn, Brian, Jamie, Kristen, Michael, Amanda and Austin.

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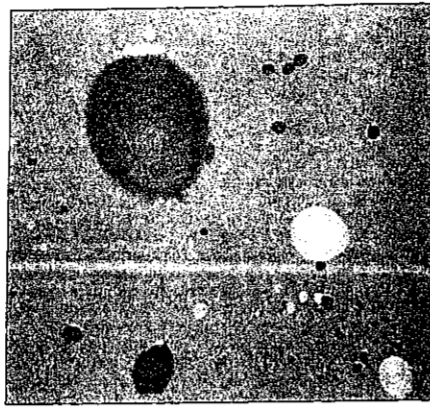
Victoria Mitchell, editor  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102  
vmitchell@gannett.com

# MY NOVI COMMUNITY

Thursday, May 31, 2007  
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## Remembering our Veterans on Memorial Day

Photos by Mike Shuster



Local veterans take the seats of honor at Monday's Memorial Day service.



Ruth Dale looks for her grandchildren in the school bands and Girl Scouts in Novi's Memorial Day Parade.



Ian and Hanna Fan color in parts of the mural of service men and women.



Novi scout troops lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.



The Lions staged mini-airplane "dog fights" and squirted water guns at some of the crowd.



Jim Peterson places a memorial wreath in front of the monument to fallen soldiers.

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Victoria Mitchell, editor  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102  
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# MY HEALTHY LIVING

Thursday, May 31, 2007  
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## Become a donor, save someone's life

By Tracy Mishler  
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Paula Koskey needs a donor. With time ticking away, Koskey, of the Nirvana Sixties at the Healing Arts Center at Providence Hospital in Novi, and an administrative coordinator at Providence Southfield, is awaiting news that a match has been made for her bone marrow transplant.

Diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease in 1992 and using her own marrow for a cure, Koskey thought she was in the clear.

"I was in remission for 10 years," she said. "Then it showed back up in 2002." After sending her Hodgkin's back into remission once again, Koskey developed Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS), which left her needing yet another bone marrow transplant.

Myelodysplastic Syndrome is a collection of stem cell disorders that increasingly affects the ability of a person's bone marrow to produce normal blood cells, including white and red blood cells and platelets.

According to the American Cancer Society, there are about 10,000 to 15,000 new cases of Myelodysplastic Syndrome diagnosed each year.

Getting a transplant is very frustrating because you're facing "your own mortality," Koskey said. "I hope to have a donor within the month. We're getting closer, but all this, it's a race against time."

"There's only a finite amount of time you have. It's a race to find a donor."

### Get donating

Since it began operations in 1987, the National Marrow Donor Program has assisted in more than 25,000 bone marrow and cord blood transplants for patients who do not have matching donors in their families.

Dr. Howard Terebello, fellowship director of hematology and oncology at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers, said only 25 percent of people who need bone marrow transplants get them from family members.

"There are thousands of peo-

ple a year who are eligible for a transplant," Terebello said. "If we can't use your own or get it from a family member, we go to the International Bone Marrow Registry where six million people are registered worldwide."

Terebello said when it comes to blood or bone marrow transplants, a perfect match is always recommended.

"It is harder for minorities to find donors," he said. "That's why we encourage everyone to become a donor. The more donors, the better chance we have at finding a match."

According to the National Marrow Donor Program, some patients are unable to find a match because of the rarity of their tissue types. Because tissue types are inherited, a most likely match is with someone from the same racial or ethnic group.

"That is why a pressing need remains for more people who identify themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or Multiple

race to volunteer as donors or to donate umbilical cord blood," according to the National Marrow Donor Program Web site.

### Donors needed

Terebello said the basic diseases warranting a bone marrow transplant are blood diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma and Hodgkin's disease.

"It's not all hospitals performing bone marrow transplants. It's only done in places that are authorized and approved for transplants, such as Ann Arbor, Karmanos or Henry Ford Hospital," he said. "Thousands of people are their own donors, but many others need someone else's bone marrow."

"We need to get as many people involved as we can. It would make it easier for people of all backgrounds to get treatment."

Koskey said if she could be on the other side, giving her own bone marrow she would in a heartbeat.

"It's definitely hard," she said. "I don't want people feeling sorry for me. Very early on,

### The history of donating

- On average, more than 280 patients receive transplants through the National Marrow Donor Program each month.
- More than 25,000 total transplants have been done since the National Marrow Donor Program began in 1987.
- The first bone marrow transplant was in 1968 at the University of Minnesota. The recipient was a child with severe combined immunodeficiency disease. The donor was a sibling.
- In 1973 a team of physicians at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City performed the first unrelated bone marrow transplant on a 5-year-old patient suffering from severe combined immunodeficiency syndrome.
- In 1984 the U.S. Congress passed the National Organ Transplant Act, which included language to evaluate unrelated bone marrow transplants and the need for establishing a national donor registry.

SOURCE: National Marrow Donor Program, www.nmrow.org

I sat down and made up ground rules for my friends and family. "Prayer is a given. Swearing is more than acceptable. Laughing is required. Crying is allowed and leave the potty pad at home."

Koskey said for those going through similar situations to hers, it's important to keep a positive attitude and be sur-

rounded by positive people. "I'm not afraid to die. I just don't want to," she said. "My words of advice: love your family, thank God for your friends and enjoy the moments."

Tracy Mishler is a freelance writer for the Novi News.

## Study says: Blood marker could point to Alzheimer's risk

By E.J. MUNDELL  
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Scientists have zeroed in on blood biomarkers that could someday help doctors predict who's at risk for Alzheimer's disease. They might even help guide treatment, the U.S. researchers added.

These biomarkers, called cytokines, are all hallmarks of heightened inflammatory responses. Cytokines specific to Alzheimer's disease were found in greater numbers on white blood cells called mononuclear cells.

Higher concentrations of inflammatory markers in the blood have been linked to Alzheimer's disease before. But

other conditions of old age, such as heart disease and arthritis, can also trigger inflammation, the researchers pointed out.

However, the newly discovered markers point specifically at Alzheimer's disease-linked inflammation in the brain, the scientists said.

That's important, because right now "there's no single blood test or MRI — that can reliably predict whether somebody has Alzheimer's disease, much less whether someone is at risk of developing the illness," explained lead researcher Dr. Zaidy Tan, director of the Memory Disorders Clinic at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

"So, if this finding is validated in other studies and larger samples, it might become a test for future risk of Alzheimer's disease," he said.

There are currently no effective treatments for Alzheimer's disease, which now affects more than 5 million Americans, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Scientists project that unless new ways are found to prevent or treat the disease, that total could climb to 16 million by mid-century.

The exact role of inflammatory processes in Alzheimer's remains a mystery, although numerous studies support the notion that they are at least associated with the mind-robbing illness.

"The data has been conflict-

ing," Tan said. "Most of the studies out there are population-based, looking at the use of anti-inflamm- atory drugs, for example, on the incidence of Alzheimer's disease." Those studies have found no good evidence that taking steroids or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (for example, aspirin or ibuprofen) cuts Alzheimer's risk.

Tan's team focused on these cells because they have the ability — unlike many other cells — to cross the blood-brain barrier.

A number of studies with elderly patients have correlated a high number of cytokines in red blood cells with Alzheimer's, but "since this population is significantly older, there are other reasons someone might have inflammation — arthritis, for example," Tan said.

The new study, published in the May 29 issue of Neurology, focused on a particular type of white blood cell, the mononuclear cell. Tan's team focused on these cells because they have the ability — unlike many other cells — to cross the blood-brain barrier.

Taking advantage of the ongoing Framingham Heart Study, Tan and his colleagues periodically tested the blood of 691 healthy elderly participants averaging 79 years of age. Then they tracked the volunteers' mental health for the next seven years.

Over that period of time, 44 of the participants developed Alzheimer's disease.

The researchers found that individuals with the highest levels of mononuclear cell-derived inflammatory cytokines were twice as likely to develop the illness as those with the lowest levels of the inflammatory markers.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News  
Kristin Corron participates in Relay for Life in memory of her father Thomas Weinbeck, in photo at right, who died of esophageal cancer, and for the future of her son Logan, 3, who was diagnosed with cancer.

### One family's battle with cancer

Continued from front

Corron said to make matters worse, she lost her father, Thomas Weinbeck, to esophageal cancer one month prior to Logan's diagnosis. She said her father, who was 57 years old, was diagnosed only one month prior.

"Cancer came knocking on our door pretty hard," she said. "It's all a blur. You just get in survival mode."

"The hard part is, I didn't have enough time to grieve for my dad before Logan was diagnosed."

### Fighting for life

Corron said every year her family would write checks to donate to different charitable causes.

"We wrote the checks out every year and slowly realized that we weren't that family," she said. "And now we are."

Corron said she and a group of teachers from Novi High School started a Relay For Life team, Team GNO, to honor those who have battled cancer.

This year's Novi Relay For

Life is being held at Novi Middle School, 10 a.m. Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday.

Corron said every team member has a different reason for participating in Relay For Life, but she and her sister, Jennifer Weinbeck, are there to honor Logan and Thomas.

"I do it because I can't do anything else," Corron said. "Because I can't bring my dad back and I can't stop cancer from coming back in Logan."

"If we can raise money to help other families, then what we've gone through means something."

### One day at a time

Corron said she and her husband, David, are taking things one day at a time now that Logan is in remission from his cancer.

"We made a scrapbook of photos and different things to keep for him when he's ready to understand what he went through," she said. "When Logan's old enough, we're going to tell him. We talk about the loss of my dad. We talk about the things Logan and he shared."

"These are things he needs to know and understand because of his condition as he grows older."

McPherson said Logan's grandmother said Logan is an

amazing child.

"He has more energy than any kid I know at his age," McPherson said. "This certainly has changed how we all look at life."

McPherson said when a family member goes through an event like Logan or Thomas did, all you can do is pray.

"It's amazing that people can go through this," she said. "Now we're grateful every morning we wake up. I look at life a little differently now than I ever did."

Corron said her dad was an avid golfer, something he always wanted to do with Logan.

"We hope Logan will follow in his footsteps and be the next Tiger Woods," she said. "That was my dad's dream, to teach him how to golf."

"And my husband and I will follow through with that. There is a slight part of me that believes my dad died so Logan could live."

Corron said she hopes everyone will come and support Relay For Life.

"I'm just one story," she said. "There are hundreds and thousands of stories. And that's why it's important to come."

"We clearly go day by day. If we've learned anything, it's we don't know how much time we have. So we definitely want to enjoy every moment."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News  
Five-year breast cancer survivor Gretchen Pugsly, right, will lace up her sneakers this June with daughter Nora Meyer for the Race for the Cure fundraiser.

### Remembering with Relay For Life

Continued from front

for different reasons.

She said some people simply come to honor a loved one; others are survivors or caregivers.

"Teams are made of students, churches, businesses and national corporate teams," she said. "Relay For Life is a time for everyone to be together, to honor our loved ones."

Corron said she and a group of teachers from Novi High School started a Relay For Life team, Team GNO, to honor those who have battled cancer.

### Saving Lives

Every dollar you raise makes a difference to people in your community whose lives are touched by cancer. The Society has contributed to almost every major discovery in cancer research. Millions of lives have been saved as a result, including people you may know. For those people and countless others, the research the Society has funded is resulting in better ways to prevent, detect and treat cancer.

Source: American Cancer Society

### Novi's Relay For Life

When: 10 a.m.-10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3

Where: Novi Middle School

What: A 24-hour event with entertainment, food and fun to celebrate survivorship and raise money for cancer research and the American Cancer Society.

For more information on the Relay For Life, contact (248) 557-5333.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News  
Five-year breast cancer survivor Gretchen Pugsly, left, will lace up her sneakers this June with daughter Nora Meyer for the Race for the Cure fundraiser. Pugsly is also a third-generation cancer survivor.

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# MY EDUCATION

Thursday, May 31, 2007 www.novnews.com fax: (248) 349-9832

## CLASS NOTES

### Party preview

The Novi High School Class of 2007 Senior All Night Party Committee invites the community to its Class of 2007 Senior All Night Party Walk Through anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Saturday, June 9th at Novi High School.

Please enter through the Auditorium doors off of 10 Mile Road. Committee members and parent volunteers have been working since August to put this memorable evening on for the students and would like residents to join them for a snack preview.

No children under the age of 19 please.

### Detroit CC Student wins at science fair

Harrison Nguyen, a junior at Detroit Catholic Central High School, competed at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in New Mexico this May, and became the first CC student in 21 years to win an award at Internationals.

Harrison won two full-ride scholarships to Devel University and New Mexico State, a sum which is worth more than

\$210,000.

In addition, Harrison also won a coveted full-expense paid research internship at New Mexico State University where he will continue his work this summer. Student winners are 9th-12th graders who earned the right to compete by winning top prizes at a local, state, regional or national science fair.

### NHS students finalists in marketing competition

Julia Kong, Cory Savino and Katori Yamada, students at Novi High School, earned the right to represent Michigan at DECA's 61st Annual International Career Development Conference.

DECA is the only international student organization operating through schools to attract young people to careers in marketing, merchandising, management and entrepreneurship. They joined over 600 other students from Michigan to compete against 14,000 fellow marketing students.

Students competed both individually and in teams for recognition and over \$250,000 in stock, cash and scholarships. More than 1,500 business professionals representing both domestic and international

corporations served as judges in the 41 competitive events. Kong, Savino and Yamada placed as overall finalists in the Entrepreneurship Written event.

### Summer CARE program

Looking for an enriching educational summer with adventure and fun? Join the Novi Community Education summer CARE program for children in preschool to middle school. The staff is experienced, and activities are age appropriate. Activities will include: field trips, crafts, science experiments, sports, games and more.

Registration is now open for the Novi Community Education Summer CARE program. Packets are available online at www.novschools.com or call (248) 449-1713 for more information. This year the program will be located at Parkview Elementary School.

Submit your information in the Class Notes of the Novi News. Send information to vmitchell@gannett.com. Photos are also welcome.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

### Festival of Bands rocks!

The Novi High School jazz ensemble plays during its Festival of the Bands on May 22.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

### Jazzy!

The Festival of the Bands at Novi High School featured a variety of music.

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# MY EDUCATION

Thursday, May 31, 2007 www.novnews.com fax: (248) 349-9832



Members of the Village Oaks Elementary School family prepare for this weekend's Relay For Life 24-hour event.

## Village Oaks Gives Back

By Holly Bowne NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

A few weeks ago, Village Oaks Elementary School sponsored a blood drive as part of "Village Oaks Gives Back" theme in honor of staff members who, due to illness and cancer, have required blood transfusions. Now the Village Oaks family has formed a team to enter the Relay For Life, which will be held at Novi Middle School's track and runs for 24 hours starting 10 a.m. Saturday, June 2.

The Relay For Life is a charity event which raises funds for the American Cancer Society in support of its mission to save lives, and empower those who have been touched by cancer. "We'll divide our team up into shifts," said Ellen Zatokokin, Village Oaks first grade teacher, and team captain. "Every shift will walk an hour, and then the next group will take over. So,

ideally, we always have someone on the track. "We have 29 team members participating and we also have a lot of people helping behind the scenes."

The Village Oaks team is one of 36 Novi teams participating in the event. They have raised more than \$2,700 so far, contributing to the over \$71,000 that has been raised by Novi teams overall. Village Oaks' team shirts have the phrase "You're One in a Million" with letters in the word "million" standing for various staff members who have battled cancer.

The Relay For Life kicks off by honoring cancer survivors with a Survivors Lap walked by those who have battled and won the fight against cancer. Besides joining a Novi team and walking or running laps, people can help raise support for the charity by purchasing luminary bags in honor of, or in

memory of, someone who has had cancer.

"The bags are decorated with the name of someone, then they're filled with sand and a candle," Zatokokin said. A Luminary Ceremony will take place at 10 p.m. Saturday. "We'll have a quiet time, speakers will come and talk, and they'll read the names of all the people who have survived or died from cancer. It's a solemn yet celebratory time honoring these people," Zatokokin said.

You can support the Village Oaks team, or any Novi team, by purchasing a luminary bag, or going to the website: www.aacsvolunteers.org/relayforlife/relayforlife. You can also support the team by purchasing a luminary bag, or going to the website: www.aacsvolunteers.org/relayforlife/relayforlife.

The Village Oaks team is still accepting team members. "We're inviting families to come and participate," Zatokokin said.



Members of the Novi High School Drumline take a break at the Winter Guard International World Championships last month. The group made finals for the second year in a row.



Mrs. Wagner's fourth graders from Novi Woods Elementary School in front of the Capitol Building.

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# MY OPINION

Thursday, May 31, 2007  
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## Novi News

Victoria Mitchell  
EDITOR  
Richard Perlbarg  
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GENERAL MANAGER

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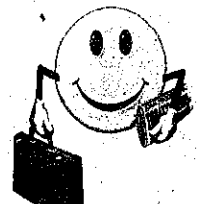
## In our opinion: Relay For Life

It affects millions of Americans. And it may be the scariest word in the English language. But this weekend, cancer will be on everyone's lips. Novi is playing host to its annual Relay For Life event Saturday and Sunday at Novi Middle School. Teams from Walgreen's, Novi High School and other community groups will raise money to help fight the disease. "The whole day serves to honor the survivors and families," said Barb Lovan, of the American Cancer Society. "The Relay For Life gives people a place to grieve and meet other survivors and caregivers. They are all inspiring." And it's inspiring for Novi residents to come together for a common cause. The goal this year is to raise \$35,000. And many are contributing to the cause, hoping to make this year's goal a reality. But you don't have to be on a team or an official donor. Consider making time this weekend to drop by the event to cheer on the ravers. Perhaps even drop some extra pocket change to show your care. The Novi event will feature camaraderie, a performance by Austin Sent & the Cowboy Band and a silent auction. The Relay For Life also kicks off by honoring cancer survivors with a Survivors Lap walked by those who have battled and won the fight against cancer. Relay For Life is a worthwhile event and brings out the best in Novi. Give it your full support.

### A note from the Novi News

The Novi News is excited to announce several personnel changes, effective today. City reporter Greg Migliore is leaving the paper to join the Ann Arbor Business Review. He will cover real estate and development starting in June. Two new reporters have also joined the staff of the Novi News. Kelly Murad will cover the city beat, and Chris Jackett will cover the neighborhood beat. Please welcome them to Novi.

### Send us your news



Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? Is your business heading in an exciting new direction, celebrating an anniversary or moving? If so, we want to know. **Mail:** Novi News, Bulletin Board, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167. **Fax:** (248) 349-9832 **E-mail:** vermitchel@gannett.com **Deadline:** Must be received by noon on Tuesday to be published in the Thursday edition. If possible, include a photograph with your submission. Briefs can come in the form of press releases or announcements. The Novi News reserves the right to edit for length and content. For more information, call (248) 349-1700, ext. 102.

### What do you think?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. **Mail:** Novi News, Letters to the Editor, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167. **Fax:** (248) 349-9832 **E-mail:** editor@gannett.com **Deadline:** Letters must be received by noon on Tuesday to be published in the Thursday edition.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

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Work progresses on the Staybridge Suites hotel on the site of Novi's Providence Hospital at Grand River Avenue and Beck Road.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

## LETTERS

### With thanks

Thank you to the many businesses and organizations that allowed our Novi Adult Education Center - Roy Prentice and Liz Novack. Novi Theaters - Debbie Lannan and Lauren Foreman. History of Novi - Kathy March. Providence Park Hospital - Lou Martin and Paula Heiber. Great Harvest Bread Company of Northville. SWOCC - Melissa Cohn and Katherine Georgas. Dentist - Dr. Takada, DDS. Smart Chicks Consignment - Nancy Salzman. Novi Police Department - Det. Erick Zisner, Det. Mike Prough and Geryann Garris. Knightsbridge Antique Mall of Northville. City of Novi - Sheryl Walsh. Tri-Athlet - Maria Ritter. Donnie's Chiropractic Care - Dr. Nick Doindits. O'Brien/ Sullivan Funeral Home - John P. O'Brien. The Recycling Authority - Rachel Pat. Novi Fire Station - Dan Taylor and Phil Duzamensk. TRACC - Dielician - Denise Mohrns. Parliament's Cider Mill of Northville.

### Change Is Inevitable, Progress Is Optional

Yes, it is that time of the year, similar to when the swallows return to Capistrano and the lamingtons march off a cliff. From May 30 to June 1, 2007, 1,700 members of Michigan's top civic, political and business leaders head off to the 27th annual Regional Detroit Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference on Mackinac Island. Here's hoping for a renewed investment in leadership, collaboration, creativity, change, innovation and desire to reinvent ourselves to thrive in the disruptive 21st century global, knowledge economy. There is no shortage for leaders in the public and private sector to address the problems, costs, steady, growing our region and state. What is needed is bold, decisive leadership that recognizes that what we once had is now gone. We are faced with a new reality, an ultra-competitive global competition. What we do to adjust to this new reality is up to us. We need our leaders to realize and act on the fact that real change requires real change. As Mayor Kilpatrick recently declared, "No one is coming to rescue us."

Some refer to the Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference as the "world's biggest schmooze fest," an event where you can accomplish "a year's worth of networking in four days." The less charitable call it Pogo, or "vertical vibration," where a lot of jumping up and down goes on, but not much forward progress takes place. Will many years of planting ideas, listening to high priced keynote speakers, networking, over indulging in drinks and fudge - even when political careers are launched - produce tangible results this year or next? Will we see a productive shared vision, common agenda and a set of specific actions that will help move our city, region and state forward? Clearly, there have been multiple seeds planted at this annual event over the years; it is time for a bountiful harvest. This year's Mackinac Policy Conference holds out the promise of offering a different vision and outcome because of the "One D" seeds that were planted far in advance of the Chamber's event. What is "One D," you ask? No, it does not stand for depressed. It is "One Detroit!" It signifies an effort by a group of regional civic organizations that are committed to working collaboratively to transform Metro Detroit into one of the world's great regions, "One Detroit."

Founding members are the Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan, Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, Detroit Regional Chamber, Detroit Renaissance, New Detroit, United Way for Southeastern Michigan. This brings me to you, Yeah, you - don't be looking around for someone else - I mean you! One D also means you. These leading organizations cannot do it alone, any more than the police can protect your community, without your help - you are an integral part of the solution. Your desire to change the way we do business, your upbeat attitude, your willingness to pitch in and help, are critical pieces of the One D jigsaw puzzle. Taken together with the work of the Governor, legislature, civic, social, religious, labor, and local governments, we can accomplish great things. Edsel Ford seemed to reach back and put into play a famous quote from his grandfather, Henry Ford, the founder of Ford Motor Company, who said: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." Adversity creates opportunity. Without fundamental change, led by folks willing to cast off the anchors of the past and to sail boldly into the future, Michigan will continue its slide and become an economic backwater, continue to lose jobs and people and become an international exhibit of what was an economic powerhouse of a bygone era. One D provides a roadmap for success. We certainly have capable individuals and organizations in the region. Working together they can accomplish much. Imagine the

**About Tom Watkins**

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

Jennifer Kerbrat  
Novi Adult Education ESL Teacher

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

# COMMENTARY

Thursday, May 31, 2007  
www.novinews.com  
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## Budget fix: Filled with smokescreens

The great German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck once wisely said there were two things you didn't want to see being made - sausage and legislation. They're both messy. Often you have no idea what's in the end product. And what goes into the process is, well, not for the faint-hearted.

There were sighs of relief across the state last week-end, after our Michigan legislators ground together enough ingredients to assert they had overcome an \$800 million deficit for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. Yet the way it was done is dismaying, and provides clear evidence that our political leaders are still scared to tackle the real problems that - every year - turn up a chronic billion dollar-plus structural state budget deficit. Everyone now knows Michigan is in deep economic crisis. That meant our state's leaders had a wonderful chance to step up and accomplish the obvious "Grand Bargain." That would involve making serious changes in the workings and costs of state and local government in return for dragging the tax system into the 21st century. But they opted for a bunch of accounting hocus-pocus, one-time gimmicks and borrowing from the future.

What they gave us instead of a future was the image of a balanced budget without the financial substance. Although the legislators claim they accomplished \$785 million in savings, there were very tough budget cuts and no tax increases in the deal they cobbled together last week. The one place they did cut was the place our future could least afford - higher education. Virtually everybody realizes that Michigan's economic future depends in large part on increasing the pro-

**About Phil Power**

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

portion of the workforce with a college degree. But state support for universities, already suffering from repeated cutbacks over the years, was cut by another \$26 million. Additionally, state payments worth \$165 million to universities and community colleges were delayed until October, safely after the start of the new fiscal year. But that \$165 million will have to be added to next year's deficit. The legislature's other "solutions" are at least as bad. Attracting and retaining the highly talented and educated "creative class" Michigan needs requires a frothy mix of stimulating communities and a vibrant arts and cultural scene. Yet our lawmakers cut \$3.6 million from arts and cultural programs. Three funds meant to be restricted - refined petroleum, state campaign and convention facilities - were raided for \$215 million. Pension and retirement accounting rules were changed, producing a "savings" of \$364 million. Even before this deal was done, the highly respected, non-partisan Citizens Research Council of Michigan said the state has grabbed cash out of restricted funds and resorted to various accounting gimmicks worth \$4.2 billion. Now, that figure is even higher. Want to know how bad our state's standing has slipped? Michigan earned \$137 million in interest payments in 2000. This year, we'll have to pay \$66 million interest on

short-term loans. The rumor actively circulating in Lansing is that in exchange for no tax increase this year, lawmakers (including some crucial Republicans) will vote an increase in the state income tax from 3.9 percent to 4.4 percent. Democrats are denying any such deal, and Republicans are denying any such deal, hoping that emerging bipartisan support for a tax increase will immunize both political parties. Sooner or later, however, Michigan's political leaders are going to have to face that a far-reaching common-ground reform agenda must be put into place. Spending on prisons needs to be cut. Legacy costs and fringe benefits for public employees need to be looked at. A benchmark, cost-and result scorecard needs to be developed comparing what we pay and what we get from government. We also need to find ways to require improvements in productivity from all levels of government. Local governments and school districts need to consolidate services wherever possible. We need fewer school districts. And our tax system needs to be brought kicking and screaming into the 21st century. We simply cannot survive as a state - let alone prosper - as long as we cannot put our financial house solidly in order. This year's budget agreement does not do it. Instead, it's yet another example of political expediency overcoming a great opportunity to move toward sensible financial management.

For breaking news in Novi, click [www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com)

**NOVI NEWS STAFF**

Abbie Holden - Office Asst. <a href="mailto:aholden@gannett.com">aholden@gannett.com</a> (248) 349-1700	Victoria Mitchell - Editor <a href="mailto:vermitchel@gannett.com">vermitchel@gannett.com</a> (248) 349-1700, ext. 122	Jeff Theisen - Sports Writer <a href="mailto:jtheisen@gannett.com">jtheisen@gannett.com</a> (248) 349-1700, ext. 104
Grace Perry - General Manager <a href="mailto:gperry@gannett.com">gperry@gannett.com</a> (248) 349-1700, ext. 120	Lisa Thour - Account Executive <a href="mailto:lthour@gannett.com">lthour@gannett.com</a> (248) 349-1700, ext. 118	Greg Migliore - Staff Writer <a href="mailto:gmigliore@gannett.com">gmigliore@gannett.com</a> (248) 349-1700, ext. 107
Margery Taunainen - Office Asst. <a href="mailto:mtaunainen@gannett.com">mtaunainen@gannett.com</a> (248) 349-1700	Nicole Stone - R.E. Asst. Exec. <a href="mailto:nstone@gannett.com">nstone@gannett.com</a> (248) 349-1700	John Heider - Staff Photographer <a href="mailto:jheider@gannett.com">jheider@gannett.com</a> (248) 349-1700, ext. 106
Lisa Dranginis - Ad Manager <a href="mailto:ldruginis@gannett.com">ldruginis@gannett.com</a> (248) 437-2011		

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WHY POLLEN CAUSES ALLERGIC SYMPTOMS

When you suffer from allergies and get advice such as "close the windows" and "stay indoors," it can be disheartening. Spring and early summer are such otherwise lovely times of the year, and no one wants to miss them. Perhaps you can spend more time outdoors if you know the type of pollen in your area. It helps to know exactly what type of pollen is early spring often causes seasonal allergic rhinitis (stuffy nose). Later in the spring and into the early summer, it is pollinating grasses that cause allergic symptoms. Ragweed is the most common cause, but several grasses such as timothy, orchard, and sweet vernal can also get your allergies raging.

**Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update**

by Dennis Engerer, P.T.

**YOUNGSTERS' SOCCER INJURIES**

It is reported that children sustained over 1.6 million soccer-related injuries during a recent 13-year period. About half of those injuries involved youngsters between ages 10 and 14. The most common injuries were to the hands, wrists or fingers, followed by ankle and knee injuries. In older players, between ages 15 and 18, the most common sports injury, ask your doctor for a referral to Northville Physical Rehabilitation, P.C. We are located at 215 East Main, Suite B and can be reached by calling 248.349.9339. New patients are welcome.

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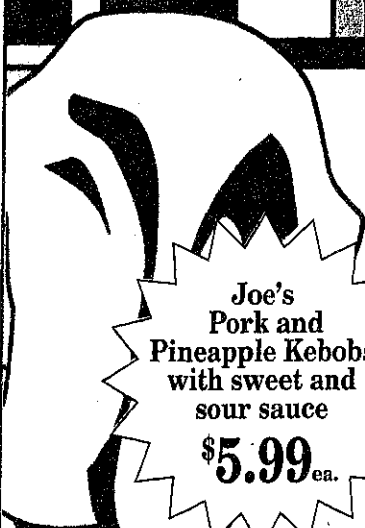
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All Novi teams begin or continue playoff push P. 3B

**NOVI LACROSSE WINS PLAYOFF OPENER** PAGE 3B

**My NOVI SPORTS**

**NOVI AREA PLAYOFF BRACKETS** SPORTS, 2B

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007 • WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM • SPORTS SUBMISSIONS: JTHEISEN@GANNETT.COM • PAGE 1B

**SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: STATE PLAYOFFS**

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

**'Cats swing, kick into playoff mode**

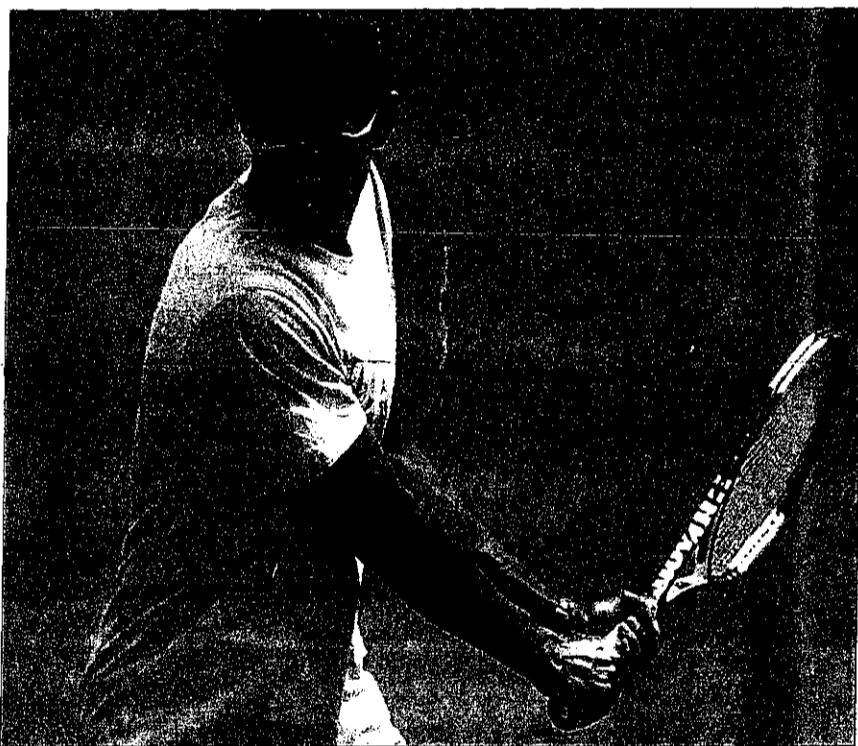


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Vivek Athalye warms up with a teammate during practice. The Wildcat tennis team competes at the state meet Friday and Saturday in Midland.

**Soccer, tennis, baseball, softball playoffs begin**

By Jeff Theisen  
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Some Novi teams will carry extremely high expectations, and some will be looking to surprise, but by the end of the week, all will be knee-deep in playoff action. The biggest expectations will fall with the Wildcat soccer team. They have won the last

two state championships and have lost just one game with two ties and 15 wins.

"In the state playoffs, anything can happen," Novi head coach Brian O'Leary said. "A lot of times you have closer games than in the regular season."

"Every play matters — offense or defense." Five seniors that signed Division I scholarships will look to go out on top one last time

as a Wildcat; Stephanie Crawford, Stephanie Janssens, Jessica Brandt, Emily Esbrook and Kristine Chaklos.

"I think they want to go out winners," O'Leary said. "They have a lot of experience to bring to it."

See **PLAYOFFS**, 3B

**What is SPORTS SPOTLIGHT?** Each week, the Novi News takes a close look at Novi athletes. Have a suggestion? [jtheisen@gannett.com](mailto:jtheisen@gannett.com)

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



Submitted photo

Caroline Johnson maintains the lead in the 4x400 relay at the Berkley Invite. Johnson, with Heather Armiak, Brittany Davis and Allie Sisson finished third at the KVC meet May 22.

**Girls track third at KVC**

Novi soccer ties Brighton heading into state playoffs

By Jeff Theisen  
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The Wildcat girls track team placed third at the KVC league meet May 22 at Howell.

Milford won the meet by a single point, 155-154 over Brighton to claim the title. Novi finished with 85 points, well ahead of Pinckney with 71.

Claiming league titles for the Wildcats were the 3,200 relay team of Heather Armiak, Caroline Johnson, Emily Hall and Allie Sisson in 9:45.5 and Andrea Kramer with a 16-6 leap in the long jump.

Finishing in second place were Monica Barland in the 100 meters (13.0), Sisson in the 300 hurdles (46.3), Katlyn Shelar in the pole vault (9-9) and Armiak

in the high jump (5-0).

Third-place finishes came from Sisson in the 100 hurdles (15-3), the 4x100 team of Brittany Davis, Jenn Felcher, Marina Pilibosian and Barlage (50.8) and the 4x400 team of Armiak, Johnson, Davis and Sisson (4:08.4).

Other point-scoring finishes included Kim Zerito placing sixth in the discus and eighth in the shot put, David with a fifth- and sixth-place finish in the 100 and 200 meters respectively, and Elle Robinsin with a sixth-place finish in the 3,200 meters.

The final meet for the Wildcats will be the state meet, June 2 at East Kentwood High School.

See **ROUNDUP**, 3B

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**NOVI NEWS Athlete of the Week**

Novi junior George Riegel, Lacrosse

Riegel fired home the most important of his three goals in overtime to beat South Lyon 10-9 in the opening round of regional play on May 23. Riegel's third goal came with just four seconds remaining in the first overtime.



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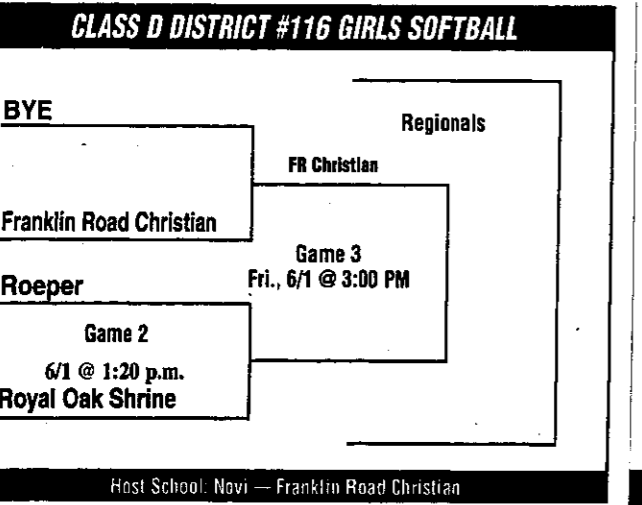
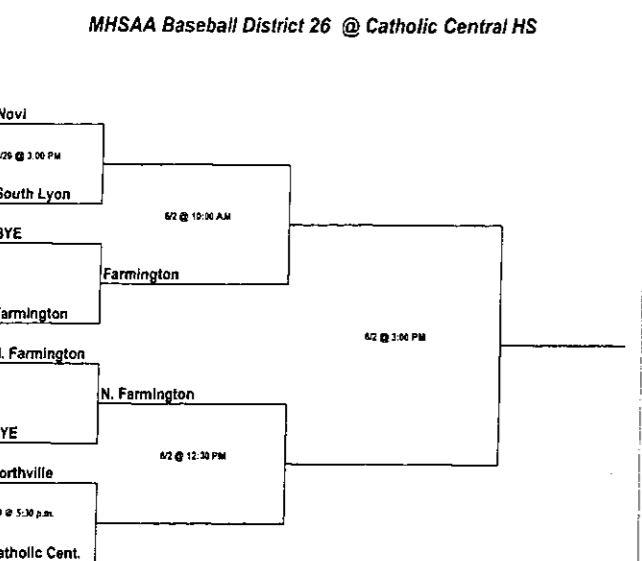
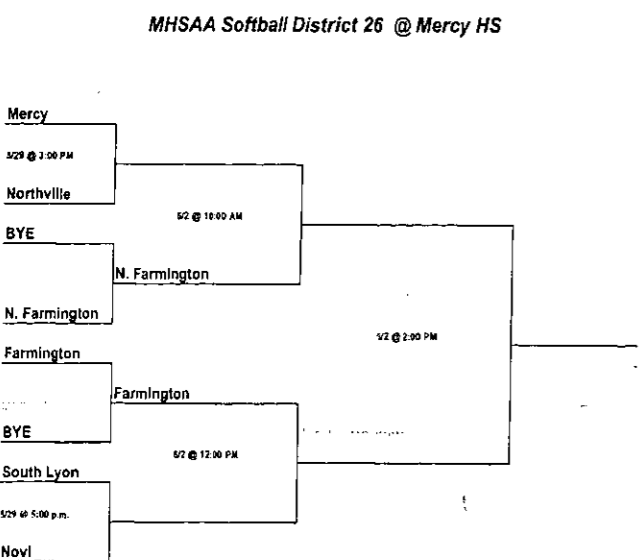
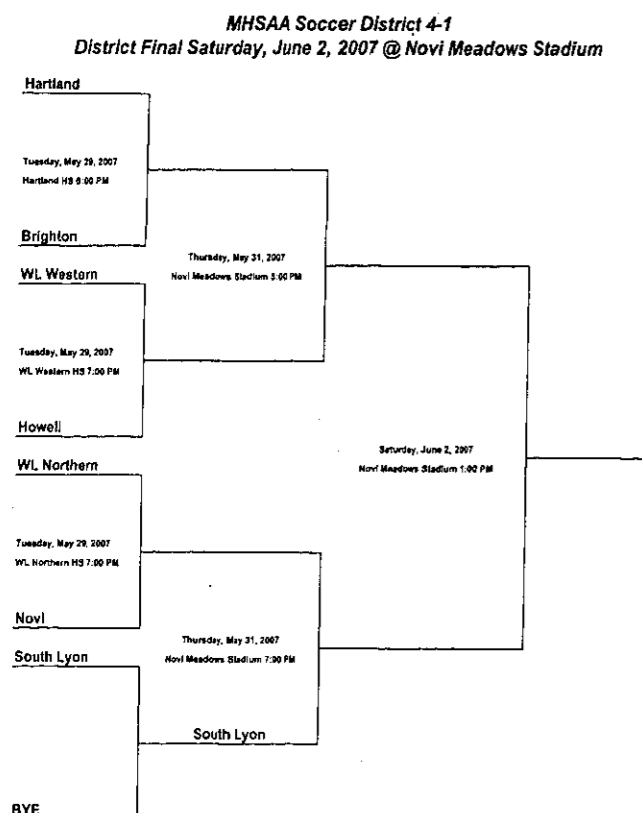
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**Canton-Salem HS** vs **Northville**  
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**Northville** vs **Novi High School**  
Fri., 6/1 @ 7:00 PM

**Brighton** vs **Novi**  
Fri., 6/1 @ 7:00 PM

**Novi High School** vs **South Lyon**  
Wed., 5/30 @ 7:30 PM

**Saline** vs **Saline**  
Wed., 5/30 @ 7:30 PM

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Regional winner to Semi Final at Novi High School vs. Region #1 Holt High School

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**Roeper** vs **Regionals**  
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**Royal Oak Shrine** vs **Regionals**  
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PLAYOFFS: Novi teams swing, kick into and through playoff gears

continued from front

"Having that experience and ability to stay calm can help." Novi has been able to get extensive minutes for everyone on the team, meaning the longer they last into the playoffs, the fresher they should be. Also, it allows O'Leary and the players to substitute with confidence in the hottest days of the soccer year.

"You really need some depth, especially with the number of games on the turf," O'Leary said. "You really can't go into it with 11 players and a weak bench."

Novi started the playoffs Tuesday against Walled Lake Northern. If Novi, the heavy favorite won, it would face South Lyon 7 p.m. tonight at Novi Meadows Stadium. A win there would land the Wildcats in the district finals (2 p.m. Saturday).

**Tennis**

The tennis team won its home regional and will look to carry the momentum into Saturday's state finals at the Midland Community Tennis Center.

**Lacrosse**

Novi lacrosse went into overtime before dispensing South Lyon 10-9 on May 24. The Wildcats second game was yesterday against Saline. If Novi wins, it will play in the regional final 7 p.m. Friday at Catholic Central.

**Baseball**

The Novi baseball team started the district hosted by Catholic Central on Tuesday. If the Wildcats beat South Lyon, they will face Farmington at 10 a.m. Saturday for the first of a possible two games. The district finals is at 3 p.m.

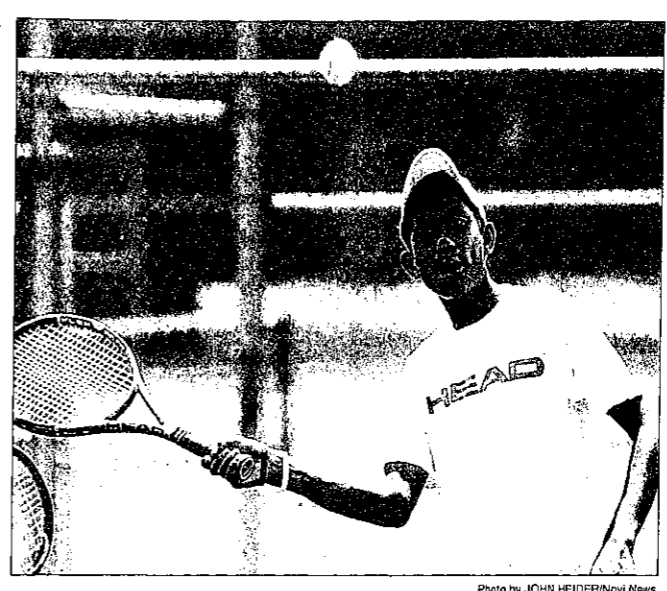
**Softball**

The Novi softball team also started the playoffs on Tuesday against South Lyon. If the Wildcats won, they would face Farmington at noon Saturday at Mercy High School in the first of a possible two games. The district finals is at 2 p.m.

The Wildcat track teams will send their slew of athletes to the state meet Saturday at East Kenwood High School.



Melissa Moss looks a throw into her glove during Novi's May 23 home game.



Novi's Justin Farooq, a No. 3 doubles player, practices at the high school.

ROUNDUP: Golf 3rd in KVC

continued from front

**Novi Golf**

The Novi golf team finished its season with a third-place finish at the post-KVC tournament May 22. The Wildcats also placed third overall in the league.

Asako Akamatsu led the Wildcats with an 86, and Natalie Krick finished one stroke behind her. Both Akamatsu and Krick received First Team All-League honors.

Ashley Simms shot 100 and received Honorable Mention All-League honors.

Megan Wenzel and Dana Cretekj both shot 102.

"The girls had successes in breaking school records and placing higher in some of their tournaments than in the past," Novi head coach Deb Harris said.

Novi soccer

The Wildcat soccer team (15-1-2) won the KVC title with a 1-1 tie May 24 against Brighton.

The Bulldogs took the lead with a first-half goal.

Novi didn't get on the board until 10 minutes left to play in the game. Jessica Barndt launched a free kick from 35-yards out that was headed in by Stephanie Crawford.

Though the Wildcats wanted a win, the tie means Novi won the league title for the sixth straight year.

"We are proud of those accomplishments but would have been much happier with a win," Novi head coach Brian O'Leary said. "Emily Esbrook and Jenna Carosio played very well in the central midfield. Stephanie Crawford played her best all-around game of the season."



Feeling Grand! The U15 Novi Jaguar Boys Green team won the championship at the 2007 Alliance Soccer Tournament in Grand Rapids on April 22.

Back Row, from left, coach Paul Tinninn, Max McHugh, Kaito Li, Ben Crider, Kevin Boguslaski, David Hammond, Brandon Waterstradt, Nick Bowser, Giovanni Sturla and Brandon Cameron.

Front Row: Nick Degiglio, Brandon Hall, Matt Jaisle, Andrew Lumley, Paul Goulas, Anuj Rama and Jordan Selva. Not pictured — coach Jared Cummings.

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Wildcats survive South Lyon scare

Submitted by Craig Hepler

The Wildcat lacrosse team received a scare May 24th when they faced off against a spirited South Lyon squad. Novi had beaten the South Lyon Lions in regulation time, the Lions led by seven- and 11-goal differences and expected to have an easy first round game. But the Lions had other ideas.

The game went to overtime with the score tied at nine. Neither team mounted much of an offense in the overtime with each team getting only two shots on goal.

The difference was that Novi goalie Eric Hepler made both of his saves while Riegel made his shot count with four seconds left in the first overtime to win the game.

Howell and Riegel each had three goals for Novi. Blackledge and Zeroya also posted three-point nights as Blackledge had two goals and an assist and Zeroya had a goal and two assists. Kevin Rowe and Hepler had seven ground balls each, and Hepler finished with 17 saves.

Novi (16-2) played Saline (18-0) in the nightcap of a doubleheader Wednesday. If the Wildcats won, they would play in the regional final against the winner of Northville and Catholic Central at 7 p.m. Friday at Catholic Central.

Sport Shorts

**Hole in one**

Jonathan Hart, a 14-year-old Novi resident, sank an ace on the fifth hole at River Bank Golf Course in South Lyon on May 7. He used a 7 wood on the 147-yard hole.

from 8:30 a.m.-noon each day in the clubhouse. The camp for grades 6-9 will run from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The camp is run by Wildcat head coach Bill Keip.

The fee is \$140, and registration begins April 16 by calling Novi Community Education at (248) 449-1206.

Westside Football Camp

Catholic Central head football coach Tom Mach will hold the 25th annual Westside Football Camp from June 18-21 for kids entering grades 5-9. The camp runs 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day at Catholic Central and costs \$180.

Registration forms are available online at [www.catholiccentral.net](http://www.catholiccentral.net) or by calling (313) 531-7251.

Novi girls basketball camp

The Novi basketball camp for girls in grades 2-9 will take place June 18-22.

An emphasis will be placed on all game phases including dribbling, shooting, pivoting, faking, rebounding, team play, sportsmanship, and an introduction to the Lady Wildcats offensive and defensive schemes. Gym clothes and shoes are required. All participants will receive a T-shirt and outdoor basketball.

The camp for grades 2-5 will run from 8:30 a.m.-noon each day in the clubhouse. The camp for grades 6-9 will run from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The camp is run by Wildcat head coach Bill Keip.

The fee is \$140, and registration begins April 16 by calling Novi Community Education at (248) 449-1206.

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 4B

Thursday, May 31, 2007

## Home Owners... Do You Know the 10 Most Common Home Maintenance Problems?

I am always amazed to find that many homes have very similar conditions and problems. Some of the issues listed below can be related to the age of the home or the systems in the home. However it is interesting to note that many of the 10 issues listed are related to water and moisture concerns.

**1. Improper Surface Grading and Drainage.** By far the most frequent problem. It is responsible for the most common household aggravations, including water penetration into the basement or crawlspace. All basements will eventually leak if the water is not moved away from the foundation.

**2. Improper Electrical Wiring.** This includes such situations as insufficient electrical service coming into the home to meet modern day requirements. It also includes inadequate overhead protection, and amateur (often dangerous) wiring connections.



**3. Roof Damage** Ranked third, leaking roofs are a frequent problem. This is caused by old or damaged shingles or improper flashing and drainage which has not been repaired.

**4. Heating Systems.** Defect items in this category include broken or malfunctioning controls, blocked chimneys and exhaust, dirty filters, humidifiers which are not functioning properly, and older conventional furnaces which are operating past their useful life and are a potential for carbon monoxide in the home.

**5. Poor Overall Maintenance.** A common problem with all homeowners. Some of the signs of poor maintenance include cracked, peeling or dirty painted surfaces; crumbling masonry; makeshift wiring or plumbing; broken lighting fixtures and/or appliances; damage exterior trim, gutters, downspouts, and driveway/walkways in need of repair. Every home needs to have TLC in order to look nice and have proper protection from weather.

**6. Structurally Related Problems.** As a result of problems in one or more of these categories, damage is sustained by such structural components as foundation walls, floor joists, rafters, windows, and door headers. Having a leak go unnoticed or repaired can allow water to penetrate into the wall and create various issues as a result.

**7. Plumbing.** Though not ranked as a number one problem, plumbing defects still rank high. This includes the existence of old or incompatible piping materials, as well as dripping faucets, faulty fixtures, and damages or clogged waste lines.

**8. Exteriors.** Flaws in this category, such as exterior seals around windows, doors and wall surface joints, rarely have structural significance but may pose discomfort to the occupants due to water and air penetration. The most common culprits are inadequate caulking and/or weather-stripping.

**9. Poor Ventilation.** In an effort to save energy, many homeowners have "over sealed" their homes, resulting in excessive interior moisture. Significant moisture can lead to decaying and failure of both the structural and non-structural elements. This includes interior moisture from bathing (bath exhaust fans), cooking/lack of having exhaust vent to exterior, and humidifiers setting to high in winter months.

**10. Miscellaneous.** This category includes interior components (often cosmetic in nature). Things such as cracked wall plates, broken floor moldings, holes in walls under sinks which water pipes come through, cracked window panes, and windows which have failed seals (when moisture gets between the glass and the window looks foggy). These can lead to an inefficient heating and cooling environment for the home.

Call us to have your home inspected and ensure none of these conditions could cause unwanted issues for your home.

Randall Patterson  
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## Host your event at River Birch Lodge

Enjoy beautiful surroundings for one-of-a-kind weddings, parties, corporate retreats

By Kate Phillips  
SPECIAL WRITER

River Birch Lodge is the place for weddings and parties that are never forgotten. It's also a premier location for corporate retreat weekends.

### OUTDOOR PARADISE

Those looking for an outdoor setting for a wedding or other event will be charmed by the idealic setting of River Birch Lodge, located in Hartland Township.

The lodge is nestled into five acres of meadows and woods with the sounds of nature all around.

It's been transformed into an outdoor paradise.

The entertaining area centers around a country pond. It's the perfect spot for a wedding or renewal of vows by the water. Tables can be set up all over the tiered patios. They'll be nearly surrounded by a river of waterfalls as boulders allow the water to trickle down the river into the pond — creating five beautiful waterfalls.

The landscaping is an absolute wonder — with over a thousand plants carefully placed by Greg Palmer, owner of Milford Landscape and Design. It's the project of a lifetime for Palmer, who is well-known for fine work in the area.

Several hundred guests — or just an intimate party of 20 — can be seated in the spacious area, with plenty of room for dancing.

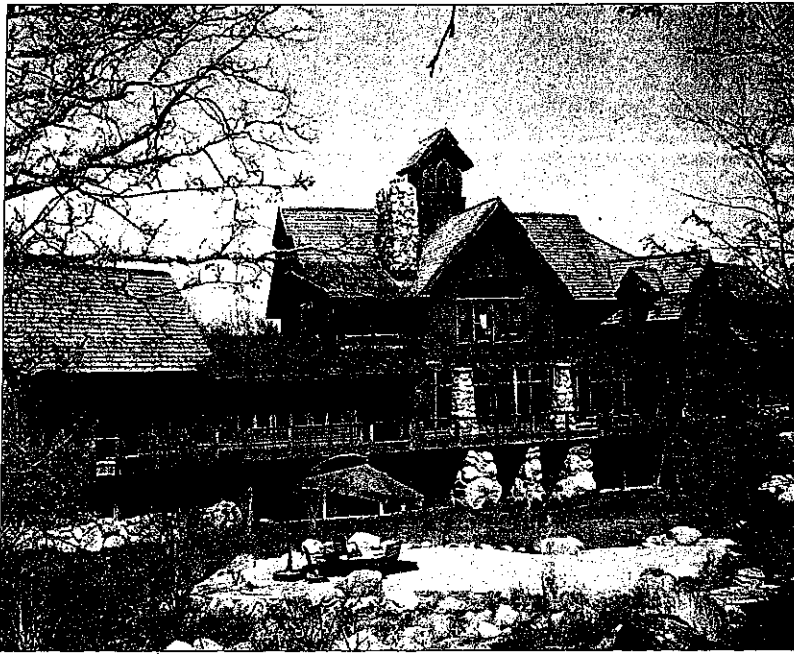
### INDOOR PARTIES

With the unpredictability of Michigan weather, it's nice to know that in case of rain, the entire party can be moved inside the lodge. It's flexibility that's just not usually available for backyard parties or weddings on location.

The spacious 11,000-square-foot building can accommodate several hundred guests. Furniture can be moved and tables set up for a dinner event. Or guests can enjoy the beauty of the exquisitely decorated lodge with station buffets and cocktails.

There's nothing more beautiful than watching the sun set through the picture windows and enjoying a one-of-a-kind evening event indoors.

River Birch Lodge brings the outdoors in, so it's the perfect site for those planning a cold-weather event with the charm of the



Submitted Photos

Guests will enjoy weddings and beautiful outdoor parties at River Birch Lodge. In case of rain the entire event can be moved inside the 11,000-square-foot lodge.

outdoors. The lodge makes guests feel a million miles from home in a location wedding that isn't too far from home.

The entire bridal party and parents can stay at the lodge for a magnificent wedding weekend.

### ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY

The beauty of River Birch Lodge makes parties and corporate events memorable.

River Birch Lodge is nothing less than an architectural wonder. It's a newer building that combines elements from several centuries to create a one-of-a-kind design masterpiece.

Designer and builder Greg Palmer started with a quaint cabin he found in Boulder Junction, Wis. He transported and reassembled the cabin piece by piece, for a stunning entrance to the lodge.

Palmer continued to expand the concept, including design inspiration from across the world — like Charlevoix mushroom house stonework, music themes from Denmark and Finland, and even a meandering cedar shake roof like those in Carmel, Cal.

Columns are made from entire trees for a feeling of the outdoors. Hand-hewn beams contrast with the elegance of stone floors. Details like open staircases, cathedral ceilings and 8-foot doorways add to the grandeur.

The lodge achieves even more charm with antiques that Palmer hand-picked as he traveled. Guests will be talking about doors from a Brazilian sugar mill, a dining room table from a French convent and old iron sconces that were converted from gas to electric light.

Other pieces were custom created for River Birch Lodge. Palmer worked with a Michigan artist to commission gnarly wooden chairs. An Utah artist crafted chandeliers and garlands made out of several hundred deer and elk antlers — all naturally shed.

While others create fireplaces out of stones, Palmer created them out of boulders. The six huge boulder fireplaces may be the highlight of the unique building — especially when there's a toasty fire inside.

### MODERN CONVENIENCES

River Birch Lodge includes the charm of

### RIVER BIRCH LODGE

Phone  
(810) 599-0694

Web site  
[www.riverbirchlodge.net](http://www.riverbirchlodge.net)

yesteryear with the conveniences of today.

Every room is equipped with plasma TVs and a Bose stereo sound system. Wireless Internet access and a computer on-site make business retreats a breeze.

Those who are holding corporate retreats will appreciate the large meeting space, break-out rooms and private office space. The large facility includes plenty of room for group work and private time.

Guests will also appreciate the fun amenities like a billiards table, ping pong, fitness room and walking paths.

Six well-appointed bedrooms each include a private bathroom with whirlpool tub or ultra-jet custom shower.

Three kitchens include space to make gourmet breakfasts or put together sandwich buffets for a crowd. The main kitchen, with professional grade appliances, works well for caterers on location.

Everything in the new lodge is in top condition. From the exquisite furniture to the immaculate surroundings, nothing could bear improvement. Even the most discerning guest will be thrilled to spend time at River Birch Lodge.

While it feels like a world away, River Birch Lodge is actually tucked in the woods a couple of miles from the U.S.-23 and M-59 intersection, less than 10 minutes away from I-96.

### A PERFECT EVENT

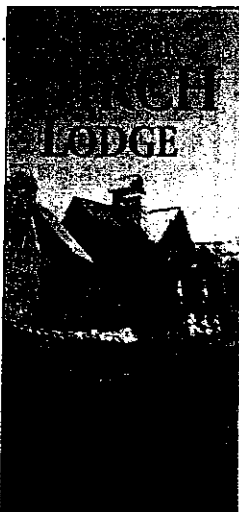
The staff at River Birch Lodge can assist you in planning the perfect event. It's a beautiful location for retirement parties, weddings, anniversaries, holiday parties, showers, corporate parties and retreats. The facility can be rented for the day, weekend or week.

Event planner Lindsay Ormstead can help put together a lovely party — including catering, seating, place settings and entertainment. Or party hosts can arrange everything on their own. It's the ultimate in flexibility.

Contact Lindsay at (810) 599-0694 to view River Birch Lodge or go to [www.riverbirchlodge.net](http://www.riverbirchlodge.net) for a virtual tour.



River Birch Lodge is a premier location for parties, corporate events and retreats. The spectacular surroundings make a weekend retreat or large indoor party an event to remember.



Let the scenic beauty of the River Birch Lodge be the backdrop of your wedding, executive retreat, special, retirement party, or other special event. With towering wood ceilings, massive stone fireplaces, enormous back decking, an adorable front porch, and signature handcrafted chandeliers this place's warm country charm is the perfect retreat. Come and enjoy the wooded views from the outdoor patios and the sounds of the waterfall or stay inside and relax with the modern day amenities.

- The 11,000 sq ft lodge includes:
- 6 custom built boulder fireplaces
  - Plasma TVs and Bose stereo sound system in every room
  - 6 Bedrooms, 6.5 bathrooms
  - 3 kitchens (main kitchen is a gourmet granite kitchen)
  - Recreational rooms with a pool table and ping pong
  - Gorgeous indoor and outdoor ceremony sites
  - Fitness room
  - Numerous breakout rooms
  - Internet access
  - Bathrooms and linen closets
  - Oil fire inserts available

The River Birch Lodge is conveniently tucked in the middle of 5 wooded acres in Hartland MI just a few miles away from the M-59, US-23 intersection.

The Lodge can be reserved exclusively for your group with prices ranging between hourly, daily, weekly or monthly packages.

A River Birch coordinator can ease your planning process by helping assist you with some or all of the details for your special event.

For booking info please call 810-599-0694

Please check us out at [www.riverbirchlodge.net](http://www.riverbirchlodge.net)

