



Novi News



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Thursday, July 29, 2004

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50¢

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Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your
GREEN SHEET
Classifieds

CORRECTION

In an article on page 1 of the July 15, 2004, edition of the *Novi News* on the Cone Zone ice cream shop, it stated that the shop is located in Northville Township. The shop is located in the City of Novi.

15 MINUTES WITH...



Maryanne Cornelius

Novi City Clerk Maryanne Cornelius is busy preparing for this fall's upcoming elections and its many new rules, regulations and paperwork.

—Page 3A

OBITUARY

Mary Elizabeth White, 70
—Page 7A

SPORTS

National Champs!

All three local U18 Michigan Hawks players who competed in the national championship are quick to admit that it was the single greatest moment in their entire careers. Of course, most people would say the same thing after winning a national championship.

—Page 1B

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Council defeats amendment

Residents won't decide on fail-safe measure

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City council members defeated Monday night a proposed amendment to Novi's city charter. The amendment, presented by Mayor Lou Csordas, would have the city default back to the city manager's budget recommendations if council can't agree on a budget by the deadline.

The city charter states that a budget must be approved by the third Monday in May. This year, council did not reach a decision until nine days after the deadline. The voters must approve any

changes to the city's charter. Csordas hoped to obtain council's approval on the amendment so that it could be placed on the ballot in the next general election in November.



L. Csordas

"I talked to our attorney, and he drafted the proposal for me. He said that it was absolutely legal to suggest such an amendment," Csordas said last week.

Although he can't remember who it was, Csordas said a local business owner actually suggested the charter amendment to him.

"It sounded like it made all kind of sense to me. What I liked about it is its simplicity," Csordas said.

Five votes are needed on city council to have a proposed amendment to the city charter placed on the November ballot. The proposal was defeated 4-2. Csordas and council members David Landry, Kim Capello and Bob Gatt voted yes. Members Tom Nagy and Laura Lorenzo voted no. Member Lynne Paul was absent.

"This is a relief valve. Currently, there is no recourse," Csordas said.

"The city currently has about 13 percent to 14 percent in budget surplus. This is better than many cities. The city manager takes direction from the city council. He's not going to do something stupid, or we'll fire him," Csordas added.

"In my mind, there never was a crisis," Nagy said. "The city won't shut down [if a budget isn't approved by the deadline]. And, we

actually have until June 30 to make a decision."

"I don't agree that there wasn't a crisis," Gatt said. "Residents were concerned about police and fire protection, and employees were concerned about their jobs. I think we need to put the matter to a vote."

Lorenzo suggested the proposed amendment was "taxation without representation." "It's the council's duty to deliberate on the budget. We could be violating the Michigan and the U.S. constitutions," she said. "The process that's in place has worked."

Kathy Smith-Roy, director of finance, said when she contacted the state's Department of Treasury on what might happen if the council couldn't approve a budget, staff said the city could adopt a temporary budget.

"However, the state is not obligated to take over unless the city is

destitute," she said.

"I don't think we were in a crisis, but close to one," Capello said. "Reasonableness left, and gamesmanship began. I was concerned that the budget might not pass."

Two Novi residents addressed council about the proposed amendment.

"My concern with the charter amendment is that it takes away the accountability of the council," said resident Chris Janik. "I think the default process takes away the power of the people."

"I don't care who the city manager is. He doesn't need to control our purse strings," said resident Carol Crawford.

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@ht.hometownlife.com.

Show off!

Novi resident to display '38 Packard at Concours d'Elegance

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Gene Ledbetter of Novi found his 1938 Packard sedan convertible in a barn in Grand Rapids in 1979, and he's enjoyed it ever since.

The Novi resident will be one of several local car enthusiasts who will have a car on display Sunday at the 26th Meadow Brook Concours d'Elegance classic car show this weekend in Rochester.

The week-long celebration of the Golden Age of the Automobile started July 25 and ends Sunday. The event, being sponsored by DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company and General Motors, combines classic vehicles with high fashion, food and fun.

More than 280 of the world's most prized classic and antique automobiles will be judged on the grounds of Meadow Brook Hall at Oakland University. Featured vehicles include the

continued on page 6



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Gene Ledbetter's reflection is seen in the chrome hubcap of his 1938 Packard at his Novi home. Ledbetter will be showing the car at the upcoming Concours d'Elegance gathering.

Bank robber strikes

Second hit in less than a month keeping detectives busy

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Two bank robberies in Novi in less than a month have been keeping detectives in the Novi Police Department busy this summer.

The most recent robbery took place last Thursday at Standard Federal Bank, 43600 West Oaks Drive in West Oaks Mall, when Novi police responded to an incident at the bank at 3:52 p.m.



That same evening, FBI agents took a suspect, Mark Joseph Gordon, 36, into custody. Agents found Gordon at a Detroit hotel.

Gordon was arraigned on federal bank robbery charges Friday in reference to a bank robbery in Eastpointe and is being held at the

continued on page 5

Wixom's Hirata Corp. wins \$50 million GM contract

Firm builds assembly line equipment for transmissions and engines

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

What's the proper way to celebrate after securing a \$50 million contract with one of The Big Three? Go bowling, of course.

That's what Hirata Corporation of America, a 60-year-old global company with an office in Wixom, did after recently winning a contract totaling about \$50 million with General Motors Corp.

General Motors chose Hirata to build two assembly lines — a transmission line in Warren and a V-10 engine line will be in Tonawanda, N.Y., according to Shawn Egger, director, Hirata, and manager of the

Detroit Division in Wixom. The assembly-line equipment will be used to construct vehicles coming out in 2006 and 2007.

"We've been working on getting this contract since November 2003 against the major assembly equipment providers of the world," Egger said.

Paul Thal, applications manager at Hirata, said that only about six companies manufacture assembly lines at the scope and size of Hirata.

"This is our biggest award cluster so far," Egger said. "We've done two major engine lines for General Motors so far. This will be our first transmission line and third engine line for the company."

Hirata has only had an office in Wixom for four years. The Detroit office focuses on powertrain assembly lines — engines and transmissions. "We've been very successful in the short amount of time we've been here," Egger said.

The 34,000-square-foot Wixom location is only one of several across the globe, with another office in Indianapolis. "Worldwide, we make

assembly lines that put houses together, appliances, computers and all different kinds of things," Egger said.

The company employs about 1,500 worldwide and has annual sales of about \$350 million year. Only about 35 people work in the U.S., with about 10 working in the Wixom office.

"We went bowling at Novi Bowl to celebrate this latest contract," Egger said.

"It's for GM, so there's not lots of profit, but it will keep us in bread and water for a few years. What we're trying to do is to establish our own manufacturing capability in house in Wixom. These projects will allow us to go forward with that. It takes us between nine months and a year to make this equipment," Egger said.

Two years ago, Hirata made the equipment used to build the Cadillac CTS engine in St. Catherine's, Ontario.

Egger said the multi-million-dollar contract is good news not only for Hirata but also the local econo-



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

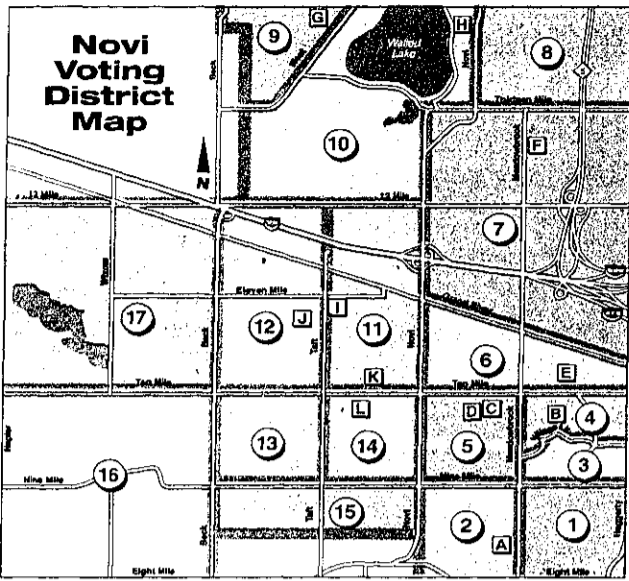
Hirata Corporation in Wixom, that engineers assembly lines for Cadillac CTS engines, won a large contract to supply services to GM. Pictured (l to r) are employees Tom Sitler, Tim Hileman, Paul Thal, David Humfeet, Joseph Rizk, David Schneck, Bill Tulpa, and Shawn Egger.

my and the support structure of the automotive industry.

"It's an indication that there are at

least some new products coming out, and the automotive market is looking good," he said.

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Green Sheet Classifieds



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- 4 West United Methodist Church, 41671 Teo Mile Rd.
- 5 Orchard Hills Elementary School, 41800 Dulina St.
- 6 Holy Family Catholic Church, 21485 Meadowbrook Rd.
- 7 Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29702 Meadowbrook Rd.
- 8 The Grand Court (Novi) (Novi Village) 45182 West Park Dr.
- 9 Lakota Woods Elementary School, 38655 Novi Rd.
- 10 Novi Christian School, 43301 Eleven Mile Rd.
- 11 Novi Meadow School, 25299 Tall Rd.
- 12 Faith Community Presbyterian Church, 44400 Teo Mile Rd.
- 13 Novi Civic Center, 45175 Teo Mile Rd.
- 14 Novi Civic Center, 45175 Teo Mile Rd.
- 15 Tranter Creek Elementary School, 45160 Nine Mile Rd.
- 16 Novi Civic Center, 45175 Teo Mile Rd.
- 17 Novi Civic Center, 45175 Teo Mile Rd.

The voting polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, August 3. There are two partisan sections on the ballot: Republican Party and Democratic Party. Select the partisan section of your choice. You may vote in one partisan section only, you cannot "split your ticket." If you vote in more than one partisan section, your partisan ballot will be rejected.

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Two Dems vie for 11th seat

By Cal Stone
EDITOR

No Republicans will challenge Thaddeus McCotter for his 11th Congressional District seat, but one of two Democrats - both Novi residents - will be running against the incumbent in November after Tuesday's primary.

Backed by the United Auto Workers endorsement, Phillip Truran, 37, is president of the Communications Workers of America Local 4013 and a former telephone repair worker.

"Hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs have been lost since McCotter took office, many of them right here in Southeast Michigan," Truran states on his Web site (www.truran2004.com).

"The people of Michigan have made clear that they want real solutions to the manufacturing jobs crisis, not gimmicks. The time has come for change."

Born in Wayne and raised in Livonia, Truran earned his pilot's license at age 20 and served in the Navy for five years in Operation Deep Freeze and aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz.

When he returned home, Truran received a business degree from Wayne State and started a small business in Plymouth. A single father, he currently lives near the shores of Walled Lake, and he has a

11TH DISTRICT

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Belleville, Canton, Dearborn Heights (part), Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Van Buren, Wayne, Westland

In Oakland County:
Commerce Township, Highland Township, Lyon Township, Milford, Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake, Waterford (part), White Lake, Wixom

son, Todd, and a daughter, Megan. Also on the Democratic ticket is Mario Fundaro, whose name voters may recognize as one of five Novi School Board candidates in the June election. In that race, he finished last with 322 votes.

The 59-year-old candidate also served in the Navy, and he has a bachelor of arts degree in political science/history from Michigan State University.

After spending time in Poland in the 1990s and meeting his late wife, Mario Fundaro changed his name to Fundaro in 2002. He currently operates a machining service. Looking for Love Introduction - International

Marriage Agency. A former Macomb County resident, Fundaro has run unsuccessfully for Congress in the past against David Bonior and Sander Levin. He moved to Novi a year ago to challenge McCotter.

A 30-year resident of Livonia, McCotter has previously represented portions of the 11th District, as a Schoolcraft Community College trustee; a Wayne County commissioner; and a Michigan State senator.

He had his wife, Rita, a registered nurse, have two sons, George and Timothy, and a daughter, Emilla.

A first-term Congressman, McCotter is endorsed by the National Realtors Association, the Michigan Right to Life, the Small Business Association of Michigan, the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan Chambers of Commerce.

In the 108th Congress, McCotter was appointed as an assistant majority whip. He serves on the International Relations Committee, Committee on Small Business and the Budget Committee.

For our endorsements in Tuesday's primary, please turn to page 12A.

15 MINUTES WITH... MARYANNE CORNELIUS

Place of employment: The City of Novi
Title: City Clerk

Length of time in that position: Four years in May. Prior to that, I worked for the City of Walled Lake since 1988. I was appointed the clerk there in December 1990.

Job description: Number one, I work directly for the mayor and city council. My main function is to attend the meetings of council, and we record all the meetings and make sure that we sign all the contracts, agreements and official documents of council. We also do all the document imaging, since before the city was a city. Election administration is another big part of my job.

Favorite aspect of job: Getting to meet so many citizens of the community.

Least favorite aspect of job: I can't think of anything, except that it's disappointing when we don't have a good voter turnout.

Biggest challenge you face: Making sure that things run smoothly. I like everything to be organized and done well. That's important.

If you could have any other job, I wanted to be an elementary school teacher.

What's your best advice: To work toward finding a balance in your life, whether it's your health, your faith, your family, your job or yourself.

She gave the other one to my sister. I still have that ring.

If you could change one thing about yourself, would it be? I think to enjoy life a little bit more — have more fun.

What was your first car? The first car I ever picked out was the one I'm driving now, my red Dodge Ram 4x4.

Who are your favorite writers? Comedic writer Dave Barry and Richard Carlson, author of "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff."

What are your favorite films? The movie with Bill Murray, "What About Bob?" Obviously, I like comedies. Another favorite of mine is "A Walk in the Clouds" with Keanu Reeves. It's a great chick flick.

What kind of music do you listen to, and who are some of your favorite artists? It depends on what kind of mood I'm in. If I need to get work done, I like to listen to fast-paced music. But if it's been busy, I like to listen to some classical music to recharge my batteries. I like the Motown sound, Norah Jones and Josh Groban, who sings that song, "You Raise Me Up." It's very inspirational music.

What's your favorite restaurant? I like Carabba's and Steve & Rocky's. Everything is good at both.

What do you like to watch on TV? I like HGTV and the Food Network, too. I like "Unwrapped" and "Mission Organization."

What are your hobbies? Reading, exercise. In the summertime I like to swim and walk, and I use exercise tapes. Can eating be a hobby?

If you won \$10 million in the lottery tomorrow, what would you do? The first thing I would do is get my family together, decide where we want to go and take everybody on a really nice vacation for a couple of weeks. I would make sure that money went to a couple of my favorite causes — Rotary and my church. And, for me, I would buy some huge piece of jewelry.

What's your most treasured possession? When I was 5, my aunt, Rose, gave me a ring when she got engaged. She had two rings that she said she wouldn't need anymore because she had an engagement ring.

Interview by Pam Fleming
Photo by John Heider

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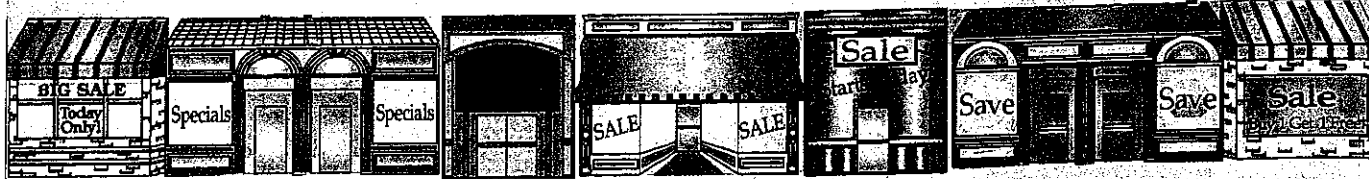
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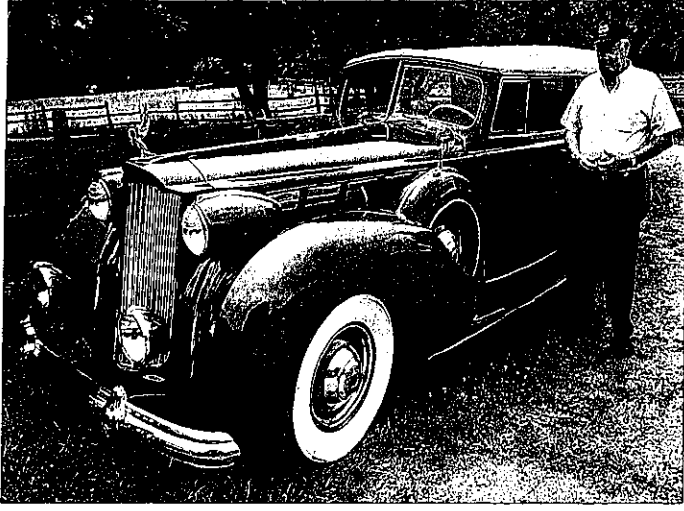


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Gene Ledbetter stands next to the 1938 Packard four-door convertible that he's restored outside his Novi home. Ledbetter will be taking the Packard to this weekend's Concours D'Elegance auto show.

Novi resident to display 1938 Packard at Concours d'Elegance

continued from front page

"Seabiscuit Buick," a 1932 Buick Murphy Town Car purchased by C.S. Howard, the owner of the famous racehorse, as a gift for his daughter-in-law, Anita.

Ledbetter's vehicle was restored in 1979, and it took first place in its class that year at Concours d'Elegance.

"I've shown the car six times since then at Meadow Brook. I've also shown a 1931 Auburn convertible, a 1941 Packard formal sedan and a 1947 Cadillac convertible," he said.

Ledbetter noted that if a car enthusiast shows his or her car at the Rochester event that they can't show it at that event again for another three years.

"It's quite an honor to get an invitation to the Meadow Brook event," he said. "It's one of the top

car shows in the country."

Other big shows are at Pebble Beach, Calif., and Amelia Island, Fla.

"It's the cream of the crop at these three when it comes to serious car collectors."

Ledbetter took five years to restore the Packard and redid the interior himself. He owns an upholstery shop, Orchard Auto Trim, in Redford.

"We just won a national award for the best pre-War (WWII) car from the Packard Club in Toronto with one of our customer's cars," he said.

Ledbetter noted that the Meadow Brook car show attracts people from all over the world, including Europe and Australia.

He does drive his '38 Packard. "I tour the car — It's a nice driver now. It's no longer a high-point car," he said.

"I don't drive it every day. It's like a good bottle of wine. It's a pleasure to drive, but you don't want to overdo it."

Ledbetter said Hershey, Pa., has the largest car meet in the world in early October. "It's the granddaddy of them all. We've also been to the Packard National Show, and Greenfield Village has one in September. But Concours d'Elegance is the social event of the year for us."

Tickets are \$20 in advance at www.meadowbrookconcours.org, by phone at (248) 269-7672 or \$25 at the gate. Children 12 and under are admitted free with a paying adult.

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@ht.homecomm.net.

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library

Hours

The Novi Public Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday during the summer. We are located at 45245 W. 10 Mile Road, just east of Taft Road. For more information, call (248) 349-0720.

Tot Time

Children ages 12-24 months are invited to join us for a half hour of stories, songs, and games on Saturday, August 7, at 10:30 a.m. Registration is not required.

Money Smart Students

Students in the fifth grade and up are invited to get smart about money at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 10, as representatives from Community Financial discuss top student money mistakes, managing your money, investing, and banking. We'll have pizza, pop, and a raffle for a \$50 savings bond. Advance registration for this free

program is required by Saturday, Aug. 7. You may register in person at the library's reception desk or by calling the library.

Summer Reading Grand Finale

Our Summer Reading Program wraps up at 1 p.m. on Friday, July 30, with ice cream and an outdoor concert featuring The Candy Band. The four Michigan moms who comprise this popular group will have the whole family rockin' as they serve up classic kid tunes with a twist! (Note: The band will perform only if the weather permits, but we'll be serving ice cream rain or shine.) No registration is required for this one-hour, free event, which is for all ages.

Summer Blowout Book Sale

The Friends of Novi Public Library will hold a special summer sale on used books on Saturday, July 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Items will be sold reduced rates. A bag of books will be \$3, and hardcover books will be three for \$1. Paperback romance paperbacks will be 10 for \$1, and all other paperbacks will be five for \$1. CDs will be three for \$1.

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LIFESTYLES

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113



S. Endo

Karate kid brings home gold medals

Students of the Michigan Karate Association located in New Hudson, and representing the surrounding communities of Novi, Northville, South Lyon, Brighton and Milford, brought home many gold, silver, and bronze medals at the Chicago Classic International Championship on Sunday, March 21, held in Schaumburg, Ill.

Seven-year-old student Saki Endo competed in kata (forms), kumite (sparring) and kihons (basics) in Chicago, and did an outstanding job winning three gold medals. The Chicago Classic is one of the most prestigious and largest tournaments in the Midwest. Chief Instructor Nick Palisce was very proud of all of his students by the manner in which they conducted themselves and competed with excellent sportsmanship. Congratulations to all and good luck in Chicago next fall.

Classes are held at the Michigan Karate Association, located at 56807 Grand River in New Hudson. For more information, call (248) 437-8588.

OBITUARY

Mary Elizabeth White, 70

Mary White died July 8, 2004. She was 70. Survivors include three children, Steve (Irene), Linda (Richard) Kopehak and Sherry (Richard) Yates; six grandchildren, Matt, Jenni, Dustin, Brian, Liz and J.R.; and four siblings, Robert Owens, David Owens, Emma Anderson and Rose Dawson.

A memorial service was held July 12, 2004, at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Interment will be at Oakland Hill Memorial Garden, Novi.

Memorials may be made to the McCarty Cancer Foundation, 27387 Woodward Ave., Berkley, MI, 48072. Arrangements were made by the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, Novi. Online sympathy messages at: www.obrien-sullivanfuneralhome.com.

IN THE SERVICE

Navy Seaman Apprentice Aaron R. Crain, son of Rose Button of Northville and Kevin Crain of Novi, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. He is a 2001 graduate of Novi High School.



Cadet Charles A. Staab II, son of Charles and Becky Staab of Novi, was selected for the U.S. Military Academy. Dean's List for spring semester 2004 at the United States Military Academy.

Autism benefit Saturday

By Kim Baker
SPECIAL WRITER

Four-year-old Christian Conrad took a month to master the concept of "yes" and "no" — and his loved ones could not be happier.

They believe he never would have learned to socialize if not for Beaumont Hospital's Hope and Care programs, which are dedicated to changing the lives of children with autism.

Following a series of vaccinations that contained mercury as a preservative, Christian was diagnosed with autism at age 2.

"We believe our son's autism was caused by mercury poisoning," said Monique Conrad, Christian's mom.

Since the diagnosis, Monique and her husband, Dave, have been actively seeking the best treatment available for Christian, mainly through the Hope and Care programs and private psychologists.

Christian's progress stretches far beyond just "yes" and "no." Conrad strongly believes this is because he began treatment so young.

"It's a proven science that with

early intervention, (autistic) children under the age of 5 can be mainstreamed and can become indistinguishable from their peers," she said.

Through the intensive therapy, Christian now makes eye contact, demonstrates motor skills, plays games, shows affection toward others and even smiles in photographs.

Before therapy, Christian barely acknowledged other people and displayed asocial behavior, as autism makes communicating thoughts and feelings difficult to impossible.

"You can't believe it's the same child," Conrad said.

Though the Conrads have experienced much joy in watching Christian overcome so many hurdles, there is one big downside to the treatment: the cost.

They spent \$40,000 last year alone on things related to helping Christian's autism, including medical treatment.

It was all out-of-pocket, because in Michigan, insurance companies see autism as an incurable mental illness and will not cover any costs relating to its treatment.

People like Jodi Nicholas, a friend the Conrads met through church, will not let this stop Christian from receiving quality treatment.

She is co-sponsoring the third annual Christian Conrad Faith Benefit to help the Conrads raise money for Christian and to give the Hope and Care programs at Beaumont money for research and treatment.

"I'm willing to do whatever it takes to make this benefit a success," she said.

Nicholas has seen first-hand the progress Christian has made. Her daughter Ashley regularly interacts with Christian in a special preschool-like setting, and Christian now affectionately refers to her as his "best friend."

Nicholas' goal is to raise \$50,000 at the event.

Conrad is optimistic about this year's benefit's success.

"I have high expectations for this benefit because there is no way anyone can deny Christian's progress."

Kim Baker is a University of

DETAILS

The Third Annual 2004 Christian Conrad Faith Benefit will be held Saturday, July 31, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Wilcox Pavilion at Hines Park, on the Plymouth side.

There will be guest speakers, educational information on autism, games, face-painting and activities for kids as well as free lunch, snacks and drinks.

A silent auction, raffles and prizes will also be available. The public is welcome and families with autistic children are encouraged to come.

All donations go directly toward helping Christian and 10 percent of all proceeds go to Beaumont Hospital's Hope and Care programs.

For more information, call (248) 848-0457 or visit www.KeyToChristian.org.

Michigan-Dearborn journalism student and a Novi News intern. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 109 or by e-mail kbaaker@bt.homecomm.net.

Dogs set to rock 50's Festival

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

The Novi-presented Michigan 50's Festival is back, and with it returns a diverse team of talented canines.

Led by their dedicated trainers, the Rock-N-Roll K-9's will compete in relays, demonstrate their agility abilities, and otherwise wow the crowds.

They're slated to appear on Thurs., July 29, at 7 p.m.; Fri., July 30, at 2, 5 and 7 p.m.; and Sat., July 31, at 2, 4 and 7 p.m. Located in the parking lot near Enamine theater, the pups will perform on Astroturf covered by 40-by-100 foot tent.

According to John Stotiele of Family of Pets, main sponsor of the event, the dogs are brought together by local people who love working with their pets.

"It's not just this big team that we flew in," Stotiele said. "It's just a fun time for the dogs to get out and the dog trainers to show off their dogs."

And show off they do. Each of the seven performances,

which will boast a roster of around 20 K-9's, features a game of musical mats set to favorite rock tunes, as well as a "fly ball" relay competition with teams of four dogs.

Kids are often invited to serve as extra "living" obstacles.

The crowning event is an obstacle course challenge dubbed the "Grand Prix." Dogs must contend with hand-constructed obstacles such as giant milkshakes, a piano keyboard, music notes, and both solid and see-through tunnels — a hit with audiences.

In all, there are 18 to 26 different "jumps," which each dog completes individually. According to Rock-N-Roll K-9's manager Pam Koons, the smallest Chihuahua

might run to the Roadrunner theme, while other dogs have been accompanied by "Good Golly Miss Molly."

"We try and have something ... that has a good beat for what they're doing," said Koons, a trainer who started the K-9's about 10 years ago. "We have a large variety of dogs."

In all, there are 35-40 members, who hail from around the state and Canada.

This year, the K-9's will perform

eight times, with the next big event coming to the Novi Expo Center. They entertain at events ranging from the Howell Balloonfest to PTA meetings.

In between shows, they'll be kept in an air-conditioned area, according to Koons. Folks will also have a chance to ask questions and pet their favorite canines.

Young and old are welcome. Bleachers will be set up to hold 400 to 500, though in the past, attendees have pushed the 1,000 mark.

"They also enjoy seeing them out there, the music, the excitement, the dogs are pumped up," said Koons, who owns six dogs herself. "It's just a combination of everything."

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Jonathan Brateman
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To those who know and do business with him, Jonathan Brateman can be best described as a "man for all seasons." His mix of creativity and attention to detail suits him well for the varied day and personality style required for his profession.



"I'm proud of the work I do," said Brateman, who owns and operates Jonathan Brateman Properties, Inc., in Novi. "I have seen clients I've worked with become established in business and provide for their families. I've saved people money over the years by subleasing spaces they no longer needed or by selling properties for them that enabled them to invest in other properties."

Brateman's company offers commercial, retail and industrial real estate services. He created the company in 1989 after working in commercial real estate for five years. The Fort Wayne, Ind. native's small-town roots are reflected in his style. For Brateman, to represent something means giving his all - his word is his bond.

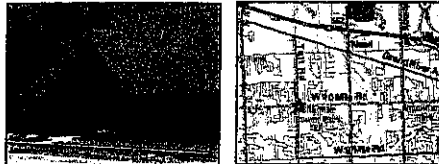
Brateman has successfully brought seller and buyer, landlord and tenant, together more than 350 times.

"For me, everyday is a new day. Every real estate transaction is as unique as each person is an individual. The bringing together of all parties has a special dimension unlike any other," he explained. "My job is to listen, bring people together, recognize the totality and facilitate a successful conclusion."

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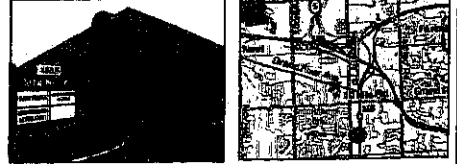
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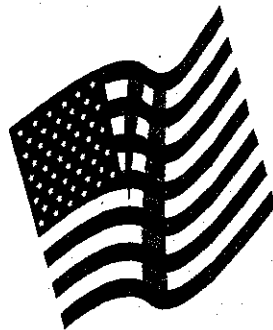
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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Tenant Representation

By JONATHAN BRATEMAN

Most business people have a great deal of proficiency and skill in their own business, but when feeling out of their element, look to a professional for assistance. They will bring in an IT specialist or a landscaper to assist them; yet when it comes to finding a location for their business, they feel that they can do it on their own. After all, what is really involved except driving around, scribbling all the phone numbers down and calling them?

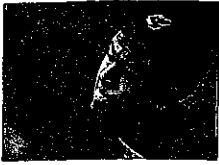


WELL, THERE IS FAR MORE TO IT THAN THAT.

Unfortunately, there is no "normal" in commercial real estate to guide a tenant or property owner. Every transaction is unique: location, market demand, attractiveness of use and track record combined with economic strength of the tenant and many other factors influence the outcome. What was the case one year ago may not be the case today. This is why a prospective tenant or property owner needs the advice and counsel of a professional.

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Batter up!
The NABF World Series came to a close this weekend without the Michigan Indians earning a place in the final game. The squad, which was the host team, had plenty to be proud of though. — Page 2B



Olympic Lessons
Northville's Ava Ohlgren made a good run at the Olympic Games with an impressive showing during the Trials. She didn't quite make it, but the 16-year-old swimmer learned a lot. — Page 3B



A swinging good time
The Michigan 50s Festival is here. Find out what is going on and when it will happen this week when the Festival hits Fountain Walk shopping center in Novi. — Page 4B

SPORTS & MORE

B1

NOVI NEWS

novitownlife.com

Thursday, July 29, 2004

NATIONAL CHAMPS!



Submitted Photo

The Michigan Hawks U18 squad took home the national championship last week with a 3-2 win over California. Three local girls participated in the victory. Kissing the championship cup are (left to right) Northville's Lindsay Hill and Nicole Cauzillo and Novi's Moe Pawlak.

U18 Hawks swoop in for national championship victory over Surf

By Sam Eggleston
RECORD SPORTS WRITER

All three local U18 Michigan Hawks players who competed in the national championship are quick to admit that it was the single greatest moment in their entire careers.

Of course, most people would say the same thing after winning a national championship.

Novi's Moe Pawlak and Northville's Nicole Cauzillo and Lindsay Hill brought home a national championship with the Hawks after their squad defeated the California Surf, 3-2, in the title game held in Orlando, Fla. July 25.

"I'm totally going out with a bang," Hill laughed. "I won a state championship in high school, a state championship in club and a regional and national championship. I can't ask for anything more."

The Hawks were ranked at the top spot in the country heading into the tournament. After the first game, the squad was already down 0-1 in the standing after losing to the Surf in the first game of three round-robin contests.

"The first game was a shocker," Pawlak said. "We knew every single team down there was good. We knew we were going to have to battle every team to win; we just didn't expect to lose that quickly."

Especially since the Surf was ranked fourth in the nation at the time.

"They put us in our place," Pawlak added. "We went in there with a lot of confidence and we came out knowing we better start winning some games."

And win they did.

The road to the title

In game two, the Hawks decided to show the other teams just what it meant to be the leading contender for the title. They took on and defeated World Class, 4-1, after trailing early.

"In every game we fell behind at first and had to come back to win," Cauzillo said.

Game three was no different. The Hawks were down 1-0 against Georgia but added a quick goal of their own for the 1-1 tie.

"It's really difficult to explain," Hill said of the tie and Michigan's berth into the national title game. "It has to do with the number of goals scored for and against for each team. It's a plus-and-minus thing."

And luckily the Hawks had the plus in their favor. They beat Georgia and were more than happy to find out they would be playing the Surf for the title game.

"The second our game was done we wanted to know how California did," Cauzillo said. "We wanted a rematch against them so bad."

And the rematch was theirs

Heading into the final game, which began at 10:30 a.m., the Hawks knew they had to get the game done during regulation or face another opponent on the field.

"We didn't want to play in that heat," Pawlak said. "Everyone knew if we went into overtime it would be unbearably hot and humid."

So they went in looking to put the game in the bag in the first two halves.

Of course, it was the Surf that got on the board first, scoring a goal about 15 minutes into the

game for the 1-0 advantage over Michigan.

"I, personally, wasn't worried," Hill said. "We had to come back in the other games too, and I knew we could do it this time as well."

The Hawks fought back just as they had in the previous games, tying the contest 1-1 before the half.

When they came out for the second half of play, it was the Surf getting the best of them yet again and scoring early for the 2-1 advantage.

The Hawks brought the ball up the field and found Hill passing it forward to a teammate. She quickly passed it inside where Cauzillo jumped into the air and headed it into the upper corner of the net for the 2-2 tie.

"You don't think I can get air being as short as I am, but I can in the national championship game," Cauzillo joked. "I can jump as high as I need to score a goal in that game."

It wasn't much later that the Hawks were given the opportunity to take the lead. A Michigan player broke free with the ball and had a clear shot at the goal before being dragged down in the box by the goalie.

The result was a penalty kick in favor of the Hawks. None other than Cauzillo was selected for the shot.

"I've shot a lot of PKs in my career," she said. "I had scored one earlier in the tournament too, and the coach and I talked about the goalie probably knowing which way I was going to go. So, when I took the shot this time, I shot the other way and scored."

She said it wasn't until after she made the shot the realization of

the goal's magnitude began to set in.

"Suddenly I realized we could win the national championship with that goal," she said. "It was awesome."

The goal put the Hawks up 3-2 for the final tally. As the whistle sounded to end the game, the team erupted in cheers. They were national champions.

Deserving their honors

The Hawks weren't just awarded a national title. The team as a whole was also given the Fair Play award and the team's goalie earned the Golden Glove nod. Cauzillo was also rewarded for her outstanding play, earning the Golden Boot which is awarded to the player with the most outstanding play in the tournament.

"It's a great honor," she said. "I never expected it."

Each girl on the team was also given a hat and a T-shirt as well as a medal to wear around their necks.

"I bring that medal everywhere," Hill said. "I'm going to be wowed for a long time. This is one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences, and I'm going to remember it forever."

In the beginning of Pawlak's senior year with the Novi Wildcats, after she scored her 100th goal, she said she was willing to trade all of them for a state title. The question, it seems, is if a national title is just as good.

"It's unreal," Pawlak said. "It's so sweet. This is by far the biggest thing that has ever happened to me in soccer. It's what you dream about. To win a national championship is unbelievable."

The sweetness of earning that title

In my time as a sports writer, I've had the pleasure of speaking to conference champions, district champions, regional champs and even the state title holders.

Now, I can truly say I've had the pleasure of speaking to national champions.

Moe Pawlak, Lindsay Hill and Nicole Cauzillo are the kind of athletes that deserve this honor. All of them have worked extremely hard to be where they are at, and all of them are Division I college soccer players, thanks to their dedication to the sport.

They went to Orlando knowing full well they were ranked first in the nation. That meant their focus at the national tournament were going to be shooting for them. Of course, when the top four teams in the country make an appearance at an event, who is to say which team is the best until the smoke clears?

Well, the Hawks went in with a number one ranking, and they left with it. Looks like the rankings were pretty much on the money this time around.

In talking with each of the above-mentioned players, one thing became readily apparent. They were happy. No, they were remarkably ecstatic. Bubbling over.

The entire time Cauzillo was being interviewed she was smiling. She made it very clear the smile wasn't about to fade any time soon.

Pawlak? Besides having to run out right after the interview to get to her job at Subway, she was pretty excited too. Even going to work wasn't going to dampen her life after claiming a title.

And then there was Lindsay Hill. Hill and I have talked a few times this past year. Unfortunately, it seems, the majority of the time I talked to her was to apologize for misidentifying her as her sister, Lauren.



Sam Eggleston

Hill is the kind of athlete I know deserves so much more than she ever gets. She works hard. She pushes herself to the limits. Her play is one of the most solid on the field at any given moment. Hill never quits when things get rough. Instead, she buckles down, grits her teeth and pushes forward.

Even though I've managed to overlook her, call her by the wrong name and basically insult her every time I put her name in the paper (or the wrong name, I should say) even a phone call from me couldn't dampen her spirits.

She was excited. She was happy. She was most definitely in the mood to pick on a lowly sports writer, but it was all in good fun.

No matter what had been done in the past, Hill was now a national champion.

Not even a phone call from the likes of me could ruin that. I'd like to extend a congratulations to the U18 Michigan Hawks soccer club. There is only one place at the top of the mountain, and they get to claim it.

For the rest of Cauzillo's, Pawlak's and Hill's lives, they can always say one thing: We're national champions.

That's something that no one can ever take away.

Will the best soccer team in the country play another season?

The future is uncertain for the Michigan Hawks U18 team.

With a national title tucked securely under their belts, the squad knew that their run in Orlando, Florida was the last time they would play together as a team.

Or is it?

"Michigan used to have a U19 division, but they did away with it a few years ago," said Northville's Nicole Cauzillo. "The word on the street is

because we won the national championship they might bring it back."

That would give the Hawks just one more year to play with each other. If that were the case, the defending national champs would have a lot of work to do to stay on top.

"It would be great to be a part of this team again," said Lindsay Hill, also a Northville resident. "It would just be hard to go into

another year and not end on top. This year has been such a great way to end it."

If the U19 team is assembled, the three local girls were all quick to say they'd be happy to be a part of the Hawks for another year.

If it isn't, then they all said there was no better way to end their careers with the Michigan Hawks program. Most of them have played in the organization since they were 9 years old.

"When we were younger and a Hawks team won a national championship, we looked up to those girls and wanted to be like them," Moe Pawlak said. "Sometimes we were ranked in the top 10 over the years. Sometimes we weren't. But, for it to end like this feels like it all paid off. All that we worked for and all that we pushed each other for came down to one great ending. It's just amazing."

