



# NOVI NEWS

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Thursday, April 6, 2000

Volume 44, Number 23

Novi, Michigan

50¢

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**INSIDE**

**Global learning**



**National geographer**

Talk about faraway places. Novi Meadows student Albert Vellathottam heads to a statewide National Geographic Geography Bee. — Page 10A

**CLASS NOTES**

**Novi kids are busy**

Wonder what those youngsters are up to these days? If they attend Novi schools, they're pretty busy. Find out about a German exchange student and the Novi Middle School Career day on — Page 11A

**LIVING**

**Old and new exercise**

Invented in the 1920s, trendy today, Pilates classes are now offered at the Sports Club of Novi to those eager to tone their muscles. — Page 1AA



**SPORTS**

**Spring fever hits Novi**

Novi's baseball team got off to a hot start last Friday with a 9-0 whipping of Brighton. Senior A.J. Rowe tied a state record with 20 strikeouts in the game, which is featured along with a team preview in sports — Page 1B



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## Clerk recruited from Walled Lake

By RANDAL YAKEY  
Staff Writer

The Novi City Council named Maryanne Cornelius as the new Novi City Clerk on Monday, April 3. The vote was 5-2 with council members Michelle Bononi and Mayor Pro-Tem Laura Lorenzo voting no.

"She's imminently qualified," Mayor Richard Clark said. "She is the president of her professional organization and I think

"I am elated about being appointed."

Maryanne Cornelius, new Novi city clerk

she will do a fantastic job for us." Cornelius, who has attended the Michigan State University Municipal Clerks Institute, is presently president of the Michigan Municipal Clerks Association, as well as a

member of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She has worked for the city of Walled Lake for ten years. "I am elated about being appointed and I will work very hard to

ensure that I gain the full trust of the council and the citizens," Cornelius said after the vote. Cornelius replaces departed Tomni Bartholomew, who resigned earlier this year to become deputy clerk with the city of Troy. Cornelius edged out Hazel Park City Clerk Mary Ellen Graver. The process to find a new city clerk had some odd twists when one of the two finalists withdrew from the proceedings.

Graver was originally the third choice behind Grand Blanc City Clerk/Finance Director Richard Saathoff, who withdrew his name from the job just before the interview process began. The Novi City Council will meet to discuss compensation for Cornelius on Saturday, April 8 beginning at 11 a.m.

Staff Writer Randal Yakey may be reached at 349-1700.

## Chamber director resigns

■ Lisa Willard leaves, citing differences with Novi chamber board.

RANDAL YAKEY  
Staff Writer

For the second time in three years there has been a major shake up in the hierarchy of the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

Board Chairman Blair Bowman said last week that the board has accepted the resignation of Executive Director Lisa Willard, as of Friday, March 31.

Willard, who was executive director for three years, reportedly told Bowman that she had chosen to pursue other options.

"The board accepted her resignation and will work on the search for a replacement right away," Bowman said. "We look at her years with the chamber as a positive thing."

There was no further comment from the board.

"Blair Bowman and I had some disagreement on some management procedures. I don't want to go into the specifics," Willard said Tuesday. "We just didn't see eye to eye. I felt that I didn't want to work with that kind of team."

Willard took over from Connie Mallet, who was fired in February 1997 after ten years as board president. At the time of the Mallet firing, a chamber press release said the board was looking into a "change in management."

Mallet was let go just days before the "Night to Remember" charity auction held every year.

Willard has been an active member in Novi since the early 1990s. She was director of the South Lyon Chamber of Commerce before taking the here.

The chamber is actively seeking to fill the post vacated by Willard.

## A father of three has new hope for a healthy life



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Michael Link plays with his son, Bravin, seven month old, as daughter Matyja, 3, looks away.

## Family rejoices over gift of kidney

■ A tragedy in Kansas City, Missouri makes the future brighter for five north end residents.

RANDAL YAKEY  
Staff Writer

Traveling along South Lake Drive, many drivers like to look out at the miracle of nature and the beauty of Walled Lake.

But there are even more miracles happening along this shoreline.

Down Bernstad Street, just off South Lake Drive, is a family who has seen a godsend in their own lives — the donation of a kidney that rejuvenated the life of an ailing father of three.

"I didn't know what was going on at first," said Michael Link, a carpenter. "I just went in for some tests. I had always been an active person — go, go, go."

Michael was diagnosed with a disease that effected his kidney last October, literally shutting off the flow of cleansed blood through his body.

"His knees swelled up and he was having a hard time walking. He had very little energy," said his wife, Leanne.

"Michael had what is called IgA Nephropathy. Last summer when everyone was sweating, Michael was cold, wrapped up in a blanket.

"It was bad. But now, he looks a thousand times better."

The only way to avoid a long

Continued on 6

## Piano man strikes right chord with elderly fans

■ Even after his wife, a former Whitehall patient, died, this volunteer still brightens the residents' days.

By RANDAL YAKEY  
Staff Writer

Nursing home care can be a tough experience for family.

But when there are volunteers like Alfredo Gallit around, things can be much more entertaining.

Gallit has been coming to play the piano at the Whitehall Nursing Home on Ten Mile Road since 1995, when his wife was brought to Whitehall. Gallit's wife, Rita, passed away in 1997, but he has continued to come to play piano for the residents every Wednesday at around 11 a.m.

"I kept coming back," said Alfredo, getting a hug from the day nurse at the front desk. The both smile at one another, taking time for greetings. "Even after my wife passed away, because of the people."

"We love him," says the nurse, gathering some folders from the desk and heading back down the hall.

Alfredo Gallit was born in Italy 87 years ago, just before the outbreak

of World War I. Gallit came to American as a boy and grew up in the mining communities of Pennsylvania.

"My dad was a coal miner in Apollo, Pennsylvania," said Gallit. "I went to Apollo High School and graduated at 16 years of age."

Alfredo said that he went on to Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh for nursing school on the advice of a family friend. That advice led him to his wife of nearly 60 years.

"That's where I met Rita," Gallit says, smiling in remembrance. "At that time, we were in the midst of the great Depression and things were hard. She was a student there. We married in '37."

"In 1941, I got a job with Chrysler as an industrial nurse and by 1953 I went to work for the Northville Psychiatric Hospital."

The couple had three children, Roberta, Robert and Susan. Robert is a lawyer in the New Jersey area and Susan is a lab technician; Roberta is an aviation monitor for the military.

At Whitehall, the capacity for residents is 82, relatively small for a nursing home, according to Christine Valley, director of therapeutic recreation. But that keeps it more like home, said Valley.

"Everybody really comes together and Alfredo is a part of that," said

Continued on 6



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Northville resident Alfredo Gallit, who was born in Italy 87 years ago, tickles the ivories last week at Whitehall Nursing Home in Novi. He visits on a regular basis to take residents down memory lane with tunes of the 1930s and the 1940s. The seniors can't wait to hear the music they grew up with, as well as join in and sing. Gallit has been visiting the nursing home since his late wife, Rita, was a patient there. He is a well-loved visitor at the Ten Mile Road establishment.





# Kidney transplant gives new lease on life to father of three

Continued from 1  
kidney donation waiting list, possibly even three years, was to get an exact match from a donor. That possibility was a 10,000 to one shot — and Michael won it.

Of the criteria used to issue donor tissue, Michael and the donor's kidney were a perfect match.

What makes the kidneys important is the fact that they are a filtering system that removes waste products from the body. The process is necessary to maintain a stable balance of body chemicals, relieve hypertension, that regulate blood pressure and control the production of red blood cells.

Without a transplant, patients could be forced to stay on kidney dialysis machines for years and Michael was heading in that direction.

Symptoms of IgA Nephropathy include high blood pressure, swelling of the hands or feet, fatigue, nausea and the increased need to urinate, especially at night.

"I'd enter lunch and I didn't have any energy. I couldn't even play with my kids," Michael said.

Now he sits in his living room wondering what would have happened to him if a Kansas City, Miss.-born family hadn't, in thinking of others in the midst of their own tragedy, sent him the gift of life.

The young man who was the

donor was a riding a four-wheeled vehicle that over turned on top of him. While the young male was wearing a helmet and chest protector at the time of the accident, his life was lost.

"The donor was a perfect match," said Leanne. "A gift from God."

According to the Kidney Foundation of Michigan, more than 1,600 Michigan residents are waiting for kidney transplants. In 1997, there were 472 kidney transplants performed in Michigan and over 3,341 living kidney transplant patients in Michigan.

The number of people on waiting lists for kidney transplants has increased by nearly 50,000 over just the past ten years.

With his sons, Bravin, seven months old, Evan, six and a half daughter Matyja, three, just playing in the living room is a joyous occasion for Michael. The children laugh and Michael smiles as Bravin waves his arms about. "We struggled," Leanne said. "But our friends and our church were a great help."

She said that the Walled Lake United Methodist Church helped with food and supplies.

"Our church has been very supportive," said Leanne. "We are grateful to all our friends and family."

To the Link family, the donation was something more people should

be thinking about. Of the 37,000 Americans awaiting kidney transplants, few will receive them this year because of a critical shortage of donors. All that needs to be done to become an organ donor is to fill out the form while you wait to renew your driver's license. It takes just as long to become an organ donor as it does to become a registered voter.

Leanne said that they got lucky when the call came in on Sunday, March 26.

"We got the call at 6:30 in the morning and the doctor asked me how Michael was feeling," said Leanne. Michael was released from the Beaumont Hospital on March 30.

"It was a four and a half hour surgery," said Michael. "It [the kidney] started working right away."

Michael says that he is feeling much better and aims to be back providing for his family later on this summer. "I need to go back to work," said Michael, a member of the Luther's Local No. 5 in Walled Lake. "I hope to be back to work in two to three months." Meanwhile, the family has a hand-printed sign on their front door, asking visitors with colds to wash their hands first before coming inside.

For most patients, it takes time to accept a new organ placed in their body. The body's immune



Kidney transplant patient Michael Link relaxes with his family, wife Leanne and kids from left, daughter Matyja, 3, Evan, 6 and the baby boy, Bravin, just seven months old.

system guards against all foreign matter, such as a "foreign" organ. So Michael must be very careful to avoid infections.

For more information about the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan call 1-(313)-971-2800 or toll free at 1-800-482-1455.

Staff Writer Randal Yakey may be reached at 349-1700.

## NOTICE — CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS BALLFIELD FENCING

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for Ballfield Fencing according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 p.m., prevailing eastern time, Thursday, April 20, 2000, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:

**CITY OF NOVI  
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR**  
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.,  
Novi, MI 48375-3024

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "REQUEST FOR BIDS" BALLFIELD FENCING AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informatics or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

**CAROL J. KALINOVIK,  
PURCHASING DIRECTOR**  
(248) 347-0448

(4-6-00 NR, NN 963654)

## NOTICE — CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 00-012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that SR Jacobson Development Corp. is requesting re-location of an existing construction trailer from lot #59 to #116, located at 45856 Bristol Circle, from April 12, 2000 through April 12, 2001.

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

This request will be considered at 3:00 p.m. on April 12, 2000, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road. All written comments should be directed to the City of Novi Building Official and must be received prior to April 12, 2000.

**SARAH MARCHIONI,  
RECORDING SECRETARY**  
(248) 347-0415

(4-6-00 NR, NN 963652)

## CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing at their Regular Council meeting on **MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2000, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, regarding the **EIGHT MILE/GARFIELD ROAD MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WETLAND MITIGATION SITE.**

If you have any comments regarding this matter, they may be presented in writing or during the Audience Participation section of the Agenda.

**NANCY REUTER,  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK**  
248-347-0458

(4-6-00 NR, NN 963650)

## RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY OF SOUTHWEST OAKLAND COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, a public authority and body corporate, shall hold a public hearing on its proposed budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2000, on **Thursday, April 20, 2000, at 9:00 a.m.** at the office of the Authority, 20000 W. Eight Mile Road, Southfield, Michigan, 48075-5708. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the offices of the Authority.

This notice is given on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Authority pursuant to the provisions of Act 48, Public Acts of Michigan, 1963 (Second Extra Session).

**MICHAEL J. CSAPO  
General Manager**

Published: April 6, 2000

## CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 19, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **BECK NORTH CORP. POTATE PARK SP 00-12**, located east of Beck and north of West Roads, for **PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN AND WETLAND PERMIT APPROVALS**. The applicant is proposing a condominium industrial plant.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning & Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, 2000.

**NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION  
ROBERT CHURELLA, SECRETARY**

(4-6-00 NR/NN 963647)

## CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 19, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **BECK WEST CORP. POTATE PARK SP 00-12**, located east of Beck and south of West Roads, for **PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL**. The applicant is proposing a condominium industrial plant.

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning & Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 19, 2000.

**NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION  
ROBERT CHURELLA, SECRETARY**

(4-6-00 NR/NN 963644)



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## Fire Log

The following is a complete list of the emergency runs of the Novi Fire Department for the week ending April 2. Each incident is listed by type, location, time and the Engine and Squad number which responded to the call.

**MONDAY, MARCH 27**  
Medical, 41825 Lamler, 7 a.m., Squad 2.  
Fire alarm, 39750 Grand River, 8:26 a.m., Engines 1, 3.  
Medical, 27650 Novi Road, 10:45 a.m., Squad 1.  
Fire alarm, 43700 Gen-Mar, 10:59 a.m., Engines 1, 3.  
Medical, 22749 Wintfield, 1:05 p.m., Squad 3.  
Wire down, Pontiac Trail and Beck Road, 1:18 p.m., Engine 2.  
Fuel spill, Novi Road and Twelve Mile, 2:31 p.m., Engine 1.  
Medical, 27000 Sheraton, 6:33 p.m., Squad 1.  
Medical, 41691 Briarwood, 6:59 p.m., Squad 2.  
Investigation, 27790 Novi Road, 10:29 p.m., Engine 1.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28**  
Fire alarm, 39750 Grand River, 1:53 a.m., Engines 1, 3.  
Medical, 22867 Picnic, 10:46 a.m., Squad 3.  
Medical, 45182 West Road, 1:48 p.m., Squad 2.  
Trash fire, S. Lake and Duana, 2:35 p.m., Engine 2.  
Medical, 42126 Pelston, 3:26 p.m., Squad 3.  
Medical, 30950 Westgate, 6:18 p.m., Squad 2.  
Fire alarm, 45361 West Road, 6:25 p.m., Engine 2.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**  
Investigation, 24425 Christina, 4:51 a.m., Engine 1.  
Trash fire, Grand River and Meadowbrook, 12:15 p.m., Engine 1.  
Medical, 30660 Vine, 1:35 p.m., Squad 2.  
Medical, 45125 Ten Mile Road, 9:38 p.m., Squad 3.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30**  
Medical, 25750 Novi Road, 12:59 a.m., Squad 1.  
Medical, 39925 Crosswind, 7:09

a.m., Squad 3.  
Medical, 41997 Arrowhead, 7:15 a.m., Squad 2.  
Fuel spill, 27500 Novi Road, 10:31 a.m., Engines 1, 2.  
Medical, 45182 West Road, 12:01 p.m., Squad 4.  
Fire alarm, 47350 Baker, 7:33 p.m., Engine 4.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31**  
Electrical fire, 41429 Ten Mile Road, 3:45 a.m., Engine 3.  
Tree fire, 31180 Wellington, 4:47 a.m., Engine 2.  
Medical, 22264 Cascade, 6:39 a.m., Squad 3.  
Trailer fire, 24460 Novi Road, 11:43 a.m., Engines 1, 3.  
Medical, 42005 Twelve Mile Road, 2:44 p.m., Squad 1.  
Injury accident, Twelve Mile and Beck Road, 5:49 p.m., Squad 4.  
Medical, 24222 Elizabeth, 11:57 p.m., Squad 4.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1**  
MEDICAL, 40728 VILLAGE WOOD, 5:15 A.M., SQUAD 1.

**MEDICAL, ARENA AND NOVI ROAD, 11:13 A.M., SQUAD 3.**

**MEDICAL, 45182 WEST ROAD, 11:16 A.M., SQUAD 2.**

**MEDICAL, NOVI AND EXPO DRIVE, 12:04 P.M., SQUAD 1.**

**FIRE ALARM, 24429 HOLYOKE COURT, 8:17 P.M., ENGINE 4.**

**INVESTIGATION, 40891 TEN MILE ROAD, 10:11 P.M., SQUAD 3.**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2**  
Medical, 42100 Cherry Hill, 9:49 a.m., Squad 1.  
Building fire, 31223 Barrington, 10:42 a.m., Engines 1, 2.  
Medical, 22178 Solomon, 11:20 a.m., Squad 3.  
Injury accident, 196 and M-5, 2:06 p.m., Squad 1.  
Medical, 21111 Haggerty, 8:09 p.m., Squad 3.

# Clean your closet and help charity

Gently used women's business attire is being collected as part of the "Clean Your Closet Weekend."

The event will be held Friday, April 7 through Sunday, April 9 at Art Van Furniture in Novi, as well as all Art Van stores in the metro Detroit area.

Store hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

As more and more women look to enter the workforce, the need for external support to help them succeed is increasing. Offering them appropriate business apparel is one way to help. Residents are asked to drop off women's business attire, in all sizes, including dresses, suits, skirts, dress slacks, blouses, blazers, shoes, and scarves.

Appropriate receipts for tax deduction will be available.

WJBK-FOX 2's Working Women program has teamed up with Art Van Furniture to collect the clothes and with the Dress for Success agency for clothing distribution to low-income women.

Individuals donating women's business attire will receive a coupon for special savings on accessories at Art Van Furniture. Additional information can be found on the Art Van Furniture web site: [www.artvan.com](http://www.artvan.com)

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STARTS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

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\$1599.99 - \$1789.99	\$899.99	\$700 - \$890
\$1399.99 - \$1589.99	\$799.99	\$600 - \$790

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# Volunteer tickles the ivories every week at senior home

**Continued from 1**  
Valley. "He (Alfredo) takes suggestions for songs from the residents. Alfredo went to Europe and he brought back pictures and sang Italian songs."

"According to Valley, 75 percent of residents of the home are wheelchair bound, but Valley says they all come to listen to Galli play."

"We like to get all the residents to gather for their meals," said Valley. "Not many eat in their rooms. And when they do, they come to the dining room to stay for the activities."

Valley said that the residents are given some thing to do every day of the week and twice in the evenings. "We have arts and crafts and music," Valley said. "If they want to prepare their own meals, we let them do that. We actually get compliments on our food."

Valley said that most of the employees, approximately 25-30 LPN and RN nurses, are essential in providing for the residents, but the volunteers also have a role to play.

"We get volunteers from the Novi schools," said Valley. "We'll get college students looking for credits." Just like Galli, Murrell McQueen came from out country too, down to the hills of Kentucky. Murrell, who works in the maintenance department, has been coming to Whitehall since he was 14, helping here he could.

"We came up here in June for Christmas and when we went back there a couple of weeks and the holidays were closed," McQueen said. "This was all swamp, or, as they call it now, wetlands. Mr. Johnson (the former owner) had this all built in 1964. I think they started construction in 1954."

He is doing part of the crew work on the current renovations. The renovations to Whitehall came in the 1970s.

Whitehall Administrator Melba Park said the renovations to Whitehall started last year and the estimated cost of the project is \$1 million.

"We're renovating the inside painting, wallpapering," said Park.

The front facade and parking areas are only a portion of the what happens behind the doors at Whitehall. The real work is done in the hearts of the volunteers and residents.



Whitehall Healthcare Center resident Al Irtenkauf sings along as volunteer Alfredo Galli plays "O Sole Mio" on the piano.



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## School Briefs

**EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**  
The Novi Educational Foundation recently established an endowment fund that will allow the nonprofit organization to provide long-term support for its projects.

The endowment fund has been started with \$10,000 from last year's "Winner-Takes-All" raffle. The Novi Educational Foundation will place at least 50 percent of its general revenue income into the fund until the \$500,000 goal is met. Income is generated from donations, golf outings, and the raffle.

Historically, Novi has strongly supported its schools, said Dr. Edmund Lippa, Novi schools superintendent.

The newly created endowment fund will allow the foundation to support innovative programs and projects that might not otherwise be available to teachers and students. We hope that citizens and businesses will support our efforts.

Over the years, the Novi Educational Foundation has provided out-of-state grants to teachers in the district. It also administers several scholarships, including the Faurel Scholarship and the recently established David Langham Memorial Scholarship.

Projects and programs include administration of several scholarships, educational grants, special classroom projects, cultural programs and staff development. For more information on grant and scholarship applications or to please a donation, call (248) 449-1200.

## WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS

Walled Lake Schools Transportation Department in conjunction with the Automobile Association of America, is presenting a bus safety program to all elementary students during the first three weeks of April.

All K through Grade 5 students, as well as bus drivers, will participate in the program, which is designed to make students aware of bus blind spots, safe riding practices, bus evacuation procedures and responsible behavior at bus stops.

Most bus safety programs are aimed at students riding buses. This safety program is unique in that it is geared to all students, riders and walkers alike.

Northern Novi is part of the Walled Lake school district.

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## Obituaries

**JAMES R. CRAIN**  
James Robert Crain, a resident of Novi since 1970, died March 31 at the age of 74.

He was born June 2, 1925, in Tyrone, Pa., to Frederick and Margaret (Senschaug) Crain.

Mr. Crain was a retired chemical engineer. He was a 1943 graduate of Tyrone High School; a 1948 graduate of Juniata College in Huntington, Pa.; graduated in 1945, from the University of North Carolina; and in 1951, received a master's degree in chemistry from Carnegie Institute of Technology.

His memberships included the First Presbyterian Church of Northville where he was a former deacon and elder; a 50-year member and 32nd Degree Mason-Harrisburg Consistory; a 50-year member of Masonic Lodge F&AM No. 494, Tyrone, Pa.; 50-year member of Jaffa Shrine, Alhambra, Pa.; and SAE and ASTM.

Mr. Crain is survived by two sons, David and James, both of Novi; two brothers, Ed and Bill, both of Florida; and seven grandchildren.

Services will be held on Friday, April 7 at 1 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St., with the Rev. Kent Clise and the Rev. James Russell officiating. Interment will be in Rural Hill Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by Casterline Funeral Home, Northville.

Memorials to the First Presbyterian Church of Northville would be appreciated by the family.

**RICHARD F. BRAND**  
Richard F. Brand, 87, died April 1 at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor.

He was born in 1912. Mr. Brand is survived by his wife, Leona; three daughters, Laurel (Carl) Gottlieb, Karen Sue (Russell) Adams, and Charlene (Michael) Lore; one sister, Margaret Meitz; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Beth Hutchison. Services were held on Wednesday, April 5 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi.

**MARY C. MURPHY**  
Mary Claire Murphy, 58, of Novi, died March 31 at her residence. She was born in 1942.

Mrs. Murphy grew up in both Detroit and Grrosse Pointe and attended Dominican High School, Highland Park Junior College and Oakland Community College. She was employed at Providence Hospital as an emergency room registrar.

Mrs. Murphy had been a resident of Novi for the past 28 years and was an avid golfer and bowler. In addition to her family, she enjoyed traveling and gardening. Mrs. Murphy was a founding member of Holy Family Church in Novi and a member of the Republican Party.

She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Dennis; three daughters, Marybeth (William) Ankofofi, Sara Murphy and Jennifer (Jason) Korie; one son, Capt. Brian Murphy USAF; parents, Jones and Frances Dowdy; four brothers and two sisters; several aunts and uncles, including Charlotte (Dan) Johns of Toledo, Ohio; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, April 7 at 11 a.m. in the First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St., with the Rev. Kent Clise and the Rev. James Russell officiating. Interment will be in Rural Hill Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home of Novi.

Memorials please to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1780 Mount Elliot Ave., Detroit, MI 48207-3498 or Most Holy Trinity Church, 1050 Porter St., Detroit, MI 48226.

## Novi Plaza loses power

A generator behind the Novi Plaza shopping center on 10 Mile Road, east of Meadowbrook, was struck by a sanitation truck, leaving businesses in the Novi without power on March 31.

According to witnesses at the scene, a garbage truck smashed into the generator located directly behind the building.

Jerry Kamala, who runs a repair business at the location, said he hadn't had a lot of business because of the outage. "I have had some customers, but we can't do much. The credit card (machine) won't work," said Kamala. "There isn't much for us to do."

Dr. Kenneth Poss has been struggling to get his patients in and out of his office located inside the mall. "We have a generator," said Dr. Poss. "Detroit Edison must have had 55 people out here in the morning. We've been trying to do the best we can."

Dr. Poss said that he has been able to keep his operation going with the generators. The power was restored later that evening.

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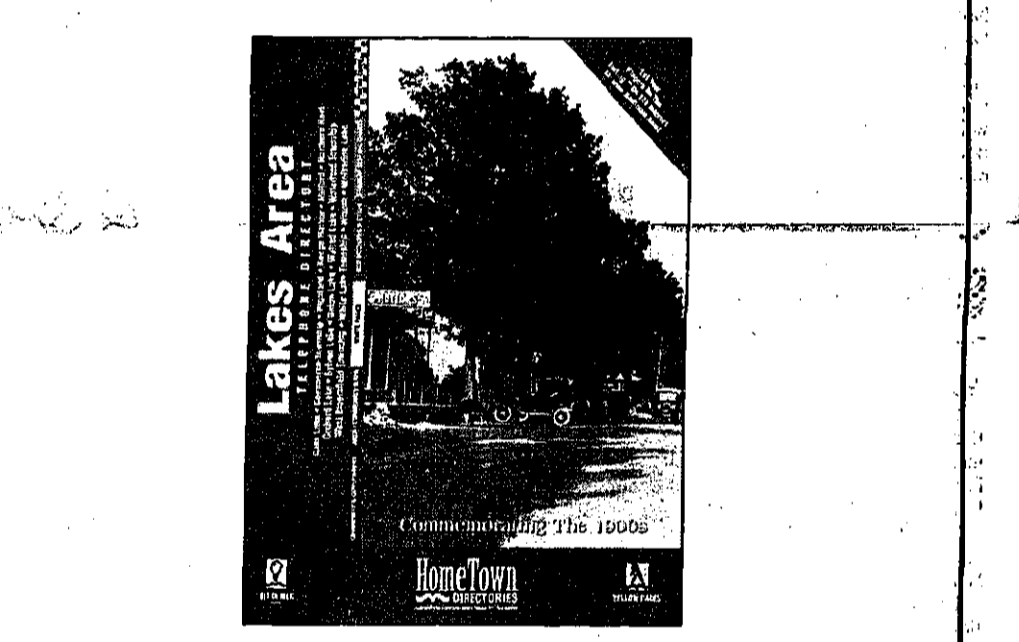
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## Boy heads to geography contest

By STEPHANIE FORDYCE



Who knows where the Taklimakan Desert is? Most likely, the answer is Albert Vellathottam, a student at Novi Meadows. He'll be one of 100 fourth through eighth graders who will test their geography knowledge in the state-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Friday.

Vellathottam will travel to Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant to compete in the 12th annual Michigan bee for a chance to advance to the nationals in Washington, D.C.

"I'm more excited than nervous," said Vellathottam. "This is my first time, and I'm really looking forward to it."

The state bee is the second level of a national competition sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

About 500 students from more than 200 Michigan schools participated in preliminary bees in January. Winners of the preliminary round took a written qualifying test, which was scored by the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C.

The top scorers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories advanced to their state bees.

During the preliminaries, Vellathottam said the students were asked questions concerning things like boundaries, bodies of water and population.

"For example one of the questions was 'in what country do sheep outnumber people twelve to one?'" he said.

"The answer was New Zealand," Vellathottam said his favorite school subject is Social Studies and that he has always been interested in geography ever since he was a 'little kid.'

"I like learning and reading about the capitals and other countries," said the fifth grader.

Vellathottam said he has been studying maps and reading lots of books to help him prepare.

The April 7 state competition will begin with preliminary rounds at 9 a.m. Ten students will advance to the 11 a.m. final round.

Wayne Kiefer, Michigan coordinator of the National Geographic Society and a member of the CMU geography faculty, will be the moderator.

Victors from the state bee will gather at the National Geographic Society's worldwide headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The winner of the state bee will receive \$100 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the national finals, May 23-24, where the national champion will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship, the runner-up will get \$15,000 and the student placing third will receive \$10,000.

The first place winner will also receive a life membership in the National Geographic Society, which includes a life-time subscription to National Geographic magazine.

The Bee had coincided with a reawakening of the nation's interest in geography, which was the Society's primary objective when it created the competition in 1989.

For the 12th year in a row "Jeopardy!" quiz show host Alex Trebek will moderate the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Vellathottam said the TV program has been a great studying tool and that he would love the chance to meet Trebek.

"It's one of my favorite shows," he said. "It would be really cool if I got to meet him."

Vellathottam said when he's not watching "Jeopardy!," he is playing his favorite sport, hockey.

Vellathottam said he is grateful for the opportunity and really excited about Friday's competition.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER  
Albert Vellathottam heads to the 12th annual Michigan National Geographic Bee on Friday, a landmark he'll remember. "I can't wait," he says. "It's going to be awesome." If he makes it to the national level, Albert will get to meet his TV hero, Alex Trebek.

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## Class Notes

Staff Writer



Photo by ROBERT AHRENS  
Foreign exchange student Yanina Hahn and her host brother both attend Novi schools. Hahn will graduate from Novi High.

## NOVI HIGH SCHOOL

## German girl attends Novi High

STEPHANIE FORDYCE

Staff Writer

When Yanina Hahn hopped a plane to the United States in September, she was terrified.

Not because she's afraid of flying but because she would be spending the next eleven months in a new country, a new school, with a new family.

Hahn, a Novi High School senior, is a foreign exchange student from Hamburg, Germany.

"I was so scared," she said. "I didn't know what to expect."

She is here as part of the Youth For Understanding program. YFU operates study abroad and scholarship programs for high school and college students, providing travel, a chance to live with a host family in another country and preparation for life in the global community.

Hahn said she decided to get involved in the foreign exchange program because her older sister was an exchange student in the U.S. and really enjoyed it.

"I really like it here," said Hahn. "It's been a great experience."

Yanina's host parents, Steven and Mary Nims and her host brother Brandon, said Hahn has been an excellent guest and that they have become very close.

"She's been a real pleasure to have," Steven Nims said. "The Nimses, who are now hosting an exchange student for the first time, said they really give credit to Hahn and other foreign

"They're really a group of brave kids who travel so far into a world they're not used to."

exchange students. "They're really a group of brave kids who travel so far into a world they're not used to," said Mary Nims.

"It really amazes me," Brandon, a seventh grader at Novi Middle School, said he's not sure he could be so brave and become an exchange student, but that he would definitely be interested in visiting Hahn in Germany in the future.

"It's definitely one of our long term goals," Mary Nims said. "Since the German student's stay, she and the Nims family have traveled up north, to Florida and Cedar Point."

Hahn said it wasn't hard making friends because she joined the high school tennis team. She is also on the track team.

Hahn said she loves American television and cartoons. "My favorite shows are 'The Simpsons' and 'South Park,'" she said.

Hahn said she can understand her teachers well and that her favorite school subject is her physics class.

"I like that one the best, but math is my least favorite," she laughed.

Hahn will be graduating with the rest of the Novi seniors this year. "I'm really looking forward to it," she said. "All my other friends that are foreign exchange students aren't allowed this opportunity."

It will also be a unique experience for a pair of proud parents from Hamburg.

"And Yanina's parents from Germany are even coming to see her graduate," said Mary. "It's really going to be exciting."

Each year, about 4,000 U.S. families open their homes to YFU international students.

According to Debra Bledsoe, a Novi/Northville area representative for YFU who is now hosting her sixth YFU student, local families provide students with a warm, homelike atmosphere, food and a place to sleep. All YFU students come with their own spending money.

Bledsoe said every student and family is well-screened and students all speak English at different levels of proficiency.

"We interview both students and families," she said.

"We try to find out why they want to be involved, what they expect and what they hope to get out of it."

Bledsoe said she personally believes that contact between people from different cultures helps break stereotypes and that YFU and programs like it, help "clear up common misconceptions about one another."

YFU, established in 1951, is one of the world's oldest and largest nonprofit international exchange organizations, dedicated to international understanding and world peace.

"YFU offers very good support," said Mary Nims.

"Especially if this is your first time hosting a student. They provide someone throughout the year that you have as a contact person that can answer concerns and questions for both the parents and the students. It's just a wonderful program."

For Hahn, the worst part about leaving Novi will be leaving her newly-acquired family and friends behind.

"It will be very hard not seeing anyone again," she said. "I've met so many great people."

For more information about hosting YFU international students call YFU's regional office at 1-800-USA-0200 or visit their website at: www.youthunderstanding.com.

Staff Writer Stephanie Fordyce can be reached at (248) 349-1700.

## NOVI WOODS ELEMENTARY

## Theater company tells stories with musical instruments, folklore

By STEPHANIE FORDYCE

Staff Writer

Recently, the students at Novi Woods Elementary took a mental journey to Japan, China, Poland and Africa as the Wild Swan Theater Group presented "Tales of Tricks and Trouble."

The theater company, out of Ann Arbor, comprised of two actors and one musician, dazzled the children with four short stories. The folk tales included the "Stone Cutter" from Japan, the "Land of the Four Suns" from China, "I Could Always Be Worse," from Poland, and an African story entitled "Many and the Sky God."

"We hope these stories will encourage the students to look them up in their libraries and read other cultural folklore," said actor Hilary Cohen.

"One of the things that's really nice about folk tales is that there's so many different ways to tell the same story."

And it all fits in perfectly with March's National Reading Month.

For example, Warren showed the students the Chinese gong and one from Africa made out of sea-pods and a bamboo shoot.

Jessica Cook said couldn't pick just one story as her favorite

because she liked them all, but fourth grader Shane Leo said he liked the African folk tale best of all.

Reading Month Chairperson for Novi Woods Kathy Davies said she and the children enjoyed the group so much last year that they decided to invite them back again.

"It was even better this year because they got the kids involved," she said.

The students couldn't have agreed more so as six of them and one brave teacher joined the actors on stage. The children and their teachers were turned into goats, chickens, ducks and a cow for the Polish skit, "I Could Be Worse," in which a overworked house gets a few more house guests.

"We really enjoy performing for children," said Cohen.

"We hope they had as much fun as we did and we hope now, they'll want to read more folk stories like these."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER  
Sandy Ryder, left, and Hilary Cohen share stories from around the world with Novi Woods Elementary students last month.

## NOVI MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Students check out careers

By STEPHANIE FORDYCE

Staff Writer

Choosing a career these days can be pretty difficult. Just ask Novi Middle School's seventh and eighth graders.

"That's why the school, with the aid of 36 community volunteers, is helping its students find a job that is right for them. Recently, Novi Middle School celebrated its Tenth Annual Career Day. Students each had the opportunity to hear four different speakers, out of 36 from a wide range of careers.

Guest speakers included a dentist, FBI agent, physical therapist, veterinarian, psychologist, hair stylist, policeman, firefighter and Novi Mayor Richard Clark.

"This is just a wonderful event. The kids love it," Career Day Coordinator Connie Ahrens said.

"It's really important that students recognize what's out there and to expose them to a number of career choices."

The speakers told students what they like best and least about their job, the best way to enter their industry, their occupation and what education or training is needed for that job.

Seventh graders Karen Miller, Erin Kiley and Jane Freeman said they really like the idea.

"It's really interesting to hear about all these people's jobs and what they do everyday," said Miller. "And it's nice because it helps introduce us different careers," said Kiley.

Ashley Ruiz, Jessica Pierce, and Katie Dase said they got to hear from speakers who included an engineer and a dentist.

"I actually learned a lot," said Pierce. "Yeah," added Ruiz, "I never knew that juice was just as bad for your teeth as pop, until today."

Seventh graders Jordan Bavarskas, Matt Beals, Jarrell Bavorskas, Molly Alpert and Meeka Okim said they enjoyed hearing from a man who works for WNC and 99.5.

"The radio industry sounds like something I'd enjoy getting into," Bavarskas said.

Novi Parks and Recreation Director Dan Davis, told the students that it is important to pick a field they are interested in.

"Whatever do with your career choices, make sure it's something you enjoy, because you're going to be doing it for a long time," he said.

Stan Proskurovsky and Mark Dufresne said their favorite speaker was funeral director, John O'Brien.

"He told us stuff like how the bodies rot if they stay out for too long," said Proskurovsky.

"Some of the things he talked about were really gross," laughed Dufresne. "But it was definitely interesting."

Another favorite seemed to be jazz musician Vincent York from Ann Arbor, who charmed the students with the sweet sounds of his saxophone.

York, who also dabbles with the clarinet and the oboe, has played back up for famous Motown greats such as the Four Tops, Temptations, and the Spinners.

"Being a musician is fun, but it's also a lot of hard work," he told the class.

"I'm still learning every day," York told them about his background and demonstrated and explained each of his instruments to the class.

York said he's always been fascinated with jazz music, and that his biggest influences were his father, who also played the sax, and Charlie Parker.

York said when it comes to making money a musician's salary can really fluctuate.

"I play anything from a small club show, making \$10 an hour, to a prestigious gig at the White House making a \$1,000 dollars for four hours," he said.

"But you know what? There's something that's more important than money and that is that you love what you do."

Seventh grader Jordan Pustover said he really enjoyed his first career day and is looking forward to having it again next year. "I really liked it," he said, "because it helps me decide what job I want to take when I get older."

"It was really cool," agreed Julie Longo. "It really opened my mind to just how many different jobs are out there."

## SPEAKING OUT

The Novi Middle School staff would like to thank all the speakers who helped make this day possible:

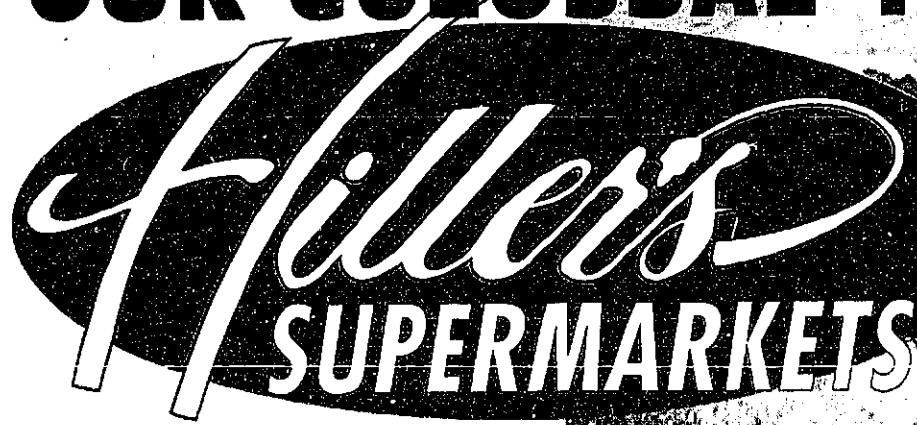
- William Ahrens, Todd Anger, Kimberly Berrie, Steven Bilmeier, Tom Bunch, Jeffrey Campbell, Morris Christlieb, Richard Clark, Rose Marie Coleman, Dan Davis, Pat Fennelly, John Fundukian, Laurie Fundukian, Stephanie Herrie, Jorg Linke, Hans Luedke, Zoltan Lukacs, And James McClinchey, Robert Macek, Jacque Martin-Downs, Cheryl Mattison, John O'Brien, Allen Ornes, Maria Paciocco, Timothy Prokop, Dave Ray, Ed Rose, David Salah, Steve Schram, Jim Setty, Jeff Tanderys, Jeff West, Jim Worden, Laurie Whitaker, Vincent York, and Jeff Zelaganz.

Also, a special thanks to all the parents and other volunteers who helped out.



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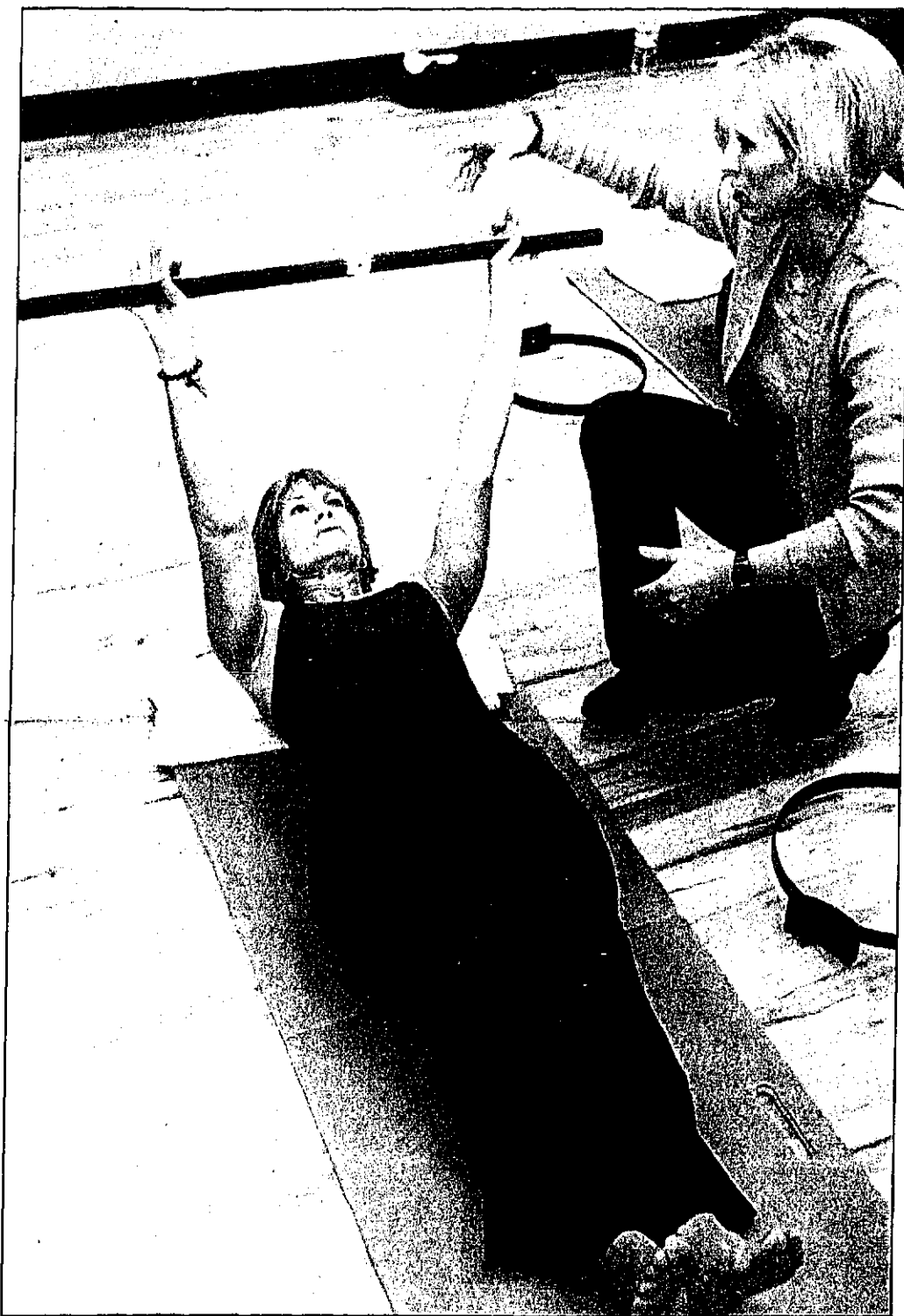
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the NOVI  
NEWS

## Living

AA

THURSDAY  
April 6,  
2000THE COMMUNITY  
STRETCH

Pilates instructor Katerina Gavin assists class member Pat Jensen with some abdominal resistance and stretching during a Thursday morning class.



Pilates class instructor Rose MacLeod, left, and Katerina Gavin help their class in an exercise to strengthen the abdominal region while they hold a "fitness circle" between their ankles. Class members, from left: Sue Loabs, Donna Moak, Juana Albanelli and Pat Jensen.

Funny name, serious class — Pilates focuses on strength, posture, breathing

Madonna's doing it, Julia Roberts is doing it, and even Leonardo DiCaprio's doing it.

It's called pilates (pronounced "pi-LAH-tees") which was developed in the 1920's by Joseph H. Pilates.

Although it was initially used by dancers and athletes, it is rapidly becoming one of the most popular exercise methods of the millennium.

"Pilates is an exercise that incorporates stretch and strengthening within each movement," said Katerina Gavin, a certified A.C.E. (American Council on Exercise) instructor and pilates trainer at The Sports Club of Novi. "It's designed to increase flexibility, build strength, and tone muscles. It also improves posture and reduces stress and risk of injury."

Pilates is comprised of a series of approximately 500 designed movements performed on a mat or specific apparatus.

The emphasis is on body awareness, controlling body alignment, and correct breathing through concentration, which promotes efficient movement.

Gavin, who's been involved with pilates for more than 17 years and has more than 20 years of experience in the fitness and dance industry, said that the result is a strong, flexible body, in which muscles become lengthened.

"When you contract a muscle, it tightens," she said.

"When you release, the muscle lengthens. When the muscle lengthens is when it gains its strength and its actual form. With pilates you don't tighten everything up. It's always keeping the muscle in a decent contraction and then stretching it a little bit longer."

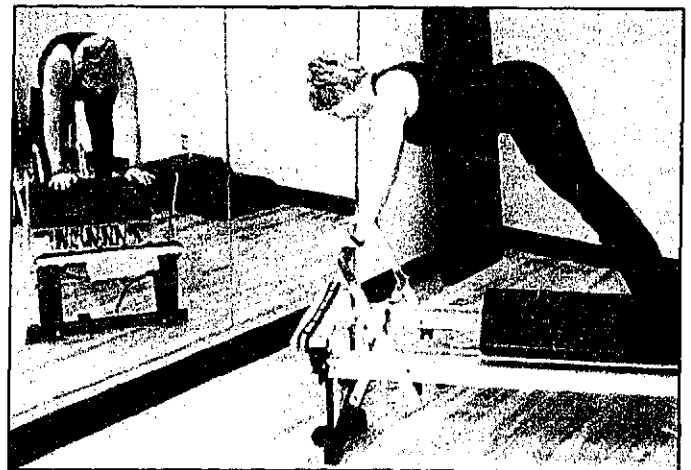
Novi resident Pat Jensen, who's been a student of pilates since November, agreed.

"I really feel like I'm a little bit taller after I leave class," she said.

"Pilates is just wonderful. I've seen definite changes in improving how I feel."

Jensen said pilates exercises both her mind and her body.

"It not only works as a stress reliever, but I've seen actual physical changes in my body, including my posture."



Pilates instructor Rose MacLeod works out on the "reformer" during a Thursday morning class at the Sports Club of Novi. The machine works on strengthening and stretching the stomach and back muscles.

Gavin said pilates is a "prescription for posture," and that while motion is an important part of the process, breathing is just as crucial.

"Inhaling and exhaling at certain times helps certain muscles," she said.

"Breathing and active motion work together, giving you complete balance of the body," she said. "With pilates, you need to be aware of where your body is in space and time."

Gavin who is also certifying in the Slott Conditioning method of pilates which is the most highly recognized in the United States, said that unlike most exercise methods, pilates is never taken to the point of fatigue.

"Fatigue creates byproducts that have to be rinsed which then causes other muscles to fail," she said.

"After just five or eight reps, we move on to the next exercise, allowing you to work through the whole body, making sure that not one area of the body gets overworked," she said.

Gavin said that no prior exercise or dance experience is necessary and that it's something everyone

can do.

"I tell my students that it's not a bit or miss, it's more of like an 'applied science,'" she said.

Jensen said Gavin is a great instructor.

"She's wonderful," she said.

"She's so great because she knows each individual's needs and that everyone isn't the same and she doesn't treat us as such."

Pat Jensen  
Pilates class participant

Gavin said part of what is so important, is that the classes are extremely

personalized. "It's very individualized," she said. "We don't even allow more than four or five students in each class."

Jensen said pilates is an excellent exercise method and that she'd encourage everyone to try it.

"I just love it," she said. "I've gotten great results. I'd definitely recommend this to anyone."

The Sports Club of Novi offers a number of day and evening classes in pilates. The club even offers a free introduction to pilates class for its fitness members. For more information or to register, call (248) 735-8850.

Stephanie Fordyce can be reached at (248) 349-1700.

## SOUNDS LIKE A STRETCH

Can't make it to a Novi Pilates class? There are still some simple exercises you can do at home to help strengthen your midsection. Here are some ideas from an athletic trainer:

- Lie flat on your back. Bend at your knees and hips. Place your feet flat on the floor. Cross your arms over your chest with each hand touching the opposite shoulder. Exhale as you "curl up" slowly, pulling your head, neck, shoulders and upper back off the floor in that order. Keep your lower back on the floor throughout the exercise. At the upper limit of the movement, "crunch," or squeeze the abdominal muscles by holding this fully contracted position for one or two seconds. Slowly release the curling motion and exhale as you return to the starting position.
- Lie flat on your back with your legs extended and your arms extended overhead. Exhale as you flex your trunk, hips and knees while bringing your arms and chest toward your legs. Finish in a tucked sitting position. Inhale as you slowly return to the starting position.
- Lie flat on your back and bend your hips and knees so that your feet are flat on the floor. Place your arms at your sides. Exhale as you slowly pull your knees toward your shoulders. Lift your hips and lower back off the floor. Focusing on the abdominal muscles, pull the pelvic girdle toward the rib cage. Inhale as you slowly return to the starting position. Do not roll back on your head and neck — stay on your upper back and shoulders.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER ~ Story by STEPHANIE FORDYCE





# Diversions

## Northville Seniors

The staff at the Northville Senior Center at 215 W. Cady St. would like to see the following seniors and activities for seniors age 50 and older. For more information or to register for an activity, please call (248) 441-1110.

**• Newsletter**  
The monthly newsletter is a monthly publication filled with information on senior citizens, activities, trips and services. You can pick up a newsletter at the Senior Center or receive it monthly by mail for \$2.

**• Telephone Reassurance (Telecare)**  
Homebound residents can receive a daily telephone call to talk and check on their well-being. Two calls a day. Please call the Senior Center to register.

**• Nutrition**  
Hot nutritious meals are provided Monday through Friday, at 11:30 a.m. A donation of \$1.50. Meals can be delivered to your home through the Meals on Wheels program. If interested, call (248) 441-1110.

**• Focus:HOPE**  
Food distribution is the fourth Friday of every month, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center.

**• TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)**  
Meets every Thursday. Weight loss takes place from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The meeting runs from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

**• Blood Pressure Screening**  
Come get your blood pressure checked by a nurse from St. Mary's Hospital nursing staff free of charge. Held at the Senior Center on the fourth Monday of the month, from noon to 2 p.m.

**• Michigan Emergency Pharmaceutical Program for Seniors**  
Qualified Northville and Northville Township senior citizens age 65 and over are eligible to receive three months' worth of prescriptions through the MEMPS program. For more information, call the Senior Center.

**• Tax Counseling Service**  
Volunteer tax counselors are available to prepare your state and local tax forms. The service will be available at the Senior Center, every Tuesday beginning Feb. 1 through April 15. Most necessary forms are on hand. Call for an appointment.

**TRANSPORTATION**  
**• Bus Service for Local Shopping Trips**  
Tuesdays: Meijer, Kohl's, Target and local banks.  
Fridays: Farmer Jack/Biller's or Shopping Center Market/Busch's (Birmingham Fridays).  
Trips begin pickup at 9:30 a.m. from your home. Cost is \$2. Call the Senior Center for reservations 21 hours in advance.

**• Bus Service for Movies, Lunch and Shopping at the Mall Twice a Month**  
The senior bus goes to Laurel Park Mall for an afternoon (from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) of movies, lunch and shopping. The days scheduled are the second and fourth Monday of each month. Pick-up will begin from your home (11 a.m.) and the MAGS parking lot (11:30 a.m.). Cost is \$2. Please call to make reservations.

**• Crimes of the Heart**  
Mark your calendar - Meadowbrook Theater, April 26. Bus leaves MAGS at 10:30 a.m. and returns about 5 p.m. Cost for the day is \$35. You buy your own lunch.

**• Dinner Out - Rainforest Cafe**  
We're going to Great Lakes Crossing in Auburn Hills April 27 and plan to leave MAGS at 4:30 p.m. Transportation cost is \$4.

**• Sound of Music**  
Great musical! May 19 at the Masonic Temple for \$55 per person. Transportation will depart at 5 p.m. and return about 10 p.m. Dinner on your own.

**• Annual Mackinac Get Together**  
The Mackinac Island 33rd annual Michigan Recreation and Parks senior "Get Together" will be Oct. 22-25 at the Grand Hotel. This special event includes hotel accommodations, transportation, and a full breakfast and five-course dinner each day. Special activities and entertainment are also planned.

**• Life Line Screening for Risk of Stroke and Vascular Disease**  
On May 3, Life Line screening will offer three primary health screenings to detect the risk of stroke and vascular disease. The tests are offered for \$35 each. Anyone interested in the screenings must register at least 24 hours in advance. Please call (800) 407-4557 to schedule an appointment.

**• May 2, Turkeyville Dinner Theater "Never Too Late"**  
Depart at 9:15 a.m. and return at 6:30 p.m. Residents, \$55; non-residents, \$56.

**• May 5-10, New York City**  
Six days and five nights; \$900 per person.

1940s, April 13 and Pops Goes Hollywood, June 1.

**SENIOR CENTER TRIPS**  
**• Presentation on Mackinac Island "Get Together" Trip**  
Come to the Senior Center on April 19 for a presentation about the 33rd annual Mackinac Island trip. Starting time is 10 a.m. The presenter will answer any questions you may have about this special event.

**• Cabaret**  
On April 19, come and enjoy a great musical at the Fisher Theater for \$51 per. We'll depart from MAGS at 1:30 p.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. Lunch on your own.

**• Senior Water Aerobics**  
This is a seven-week session with a cost of \$55. Classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays. Session 11 runs May 1 through June 12. Class begins at 1 p.m. at the pool at Our Lady of Providence on Beck Road. Stop by the Senior Center and register.

**• Senior Walking Club**  
Join the Northville seniors at Laurel Park Place Mall every Wednesday morning to walk. We will be walking at the mall. Transportation is available from your home starting at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$2, payable to the bus driver. Call the Senior Center to register.

**• Massage Therapy**  
Treat yourself to a well deserved hour massage by a certified therapist at the Senior Center.

**• Annual Mackinac Get Together**  
The Mackinac Island 33rd annual Michigan Recreation and Parks senior "Get Together" will be Oct. 22-25 at the Grand Hotel. This special event includes hotel accommodations, transportation, and a full breakfast and five-course dinner each day. Special activities and entertainment are also planned.

**• Detroit Symphony Orchestra**  
Northville Senior Center has reserved tickets to various concerts throughout the season. Departure time is 9 a.m. from MAGS. Please call to register.

**• Coffee Concerts** are \$27 per ticket. Available classical Coffee Concerts include Strauss' Tone Poems, April 7; El Mozart, April 28; and Pieces of Beethoven, June 9.

**• "Pop Concerts" are \$33 per ticket. Available Pop Concerts include: The Air - Music of the Fabulous**

**the NOVI NEWS 6AA**  
THURSDAY April 6, 2000

**• May 16, Gerald Ford Museum, Grand Rapids**  
Depart at 7:45 a.m. and return, 6:30 p.m. Residents, \$54; non-residents, \$55.

**• May 23, Ottawa, Canada's Regal Capital**  
Four days and three nights; \$335 per person, double occupancy.

**• May 31, "Always Patsy Kline"**  
Gem Theater. Leave at 10:45 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Residents, \$69; non-residents, \$70.

**SENIOR FITNESS**  
**• Senior Water Aerobics**  
This is a seven-week session with a cost of \$55. Classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays. Session 11 runs May 1 through June 12. Class begins at 1 p.m. at the pool at Our Lady of Providence on Beck Road. Stop by the Senior Center and register.

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# Movies

## 'Rules of Engagement'

30-year Marine veteran goes on trial for rescue mission gone wrong

Col. Terry Childers (Samuel L. Jackson) is a 30-year Marine veteran: a decorated officer with combat experience in Vietnam, Beirut and Desert Storm — a patriot, a hero. But now, the country he served so well has put him on trial for a rescue mission that went terribly wrong.

For his attorney, he has chosen Marine Col. Hays Hodges (Tommy Lee Jones), a comrade-in-arms who owes his life to Childers. Hodges is not the best lawyer in the service, but Childers trusts him as a brother Marine who knows what it's like to risk death under fire.

Bound by duty and friendship, Hodges reluctantly takes the case, even as he begins to doubt the man who saved his life in Vietnam three decades ago.

"Rules of Engagement" stars Tommy Lee Jones and Samuel L. Jackson. A Paramount Pictures presentation in association with Seven Arts Pictures, the film also stars Guy Pearce, Bruce Greenwood, Blair Underwood, Phillip Baker Hall, Anne Archer and Ben Kingsley.

Stephen Gaghan wrote the screenplay based on a story by James Webb, former U.S. Secretary of the Navy. Dale Dye is the film's military technical adviser and also appears on screen as a general who gives Childers his support.

When the U.S. Embassy in Yemen is surrounded by a large crowd of demonstrators, Col. Terry Childers, USMC, is ordered to lead a squadron of Marines to bolster security at the embassy. He has orders to evacuate the ambassador and his family if the situation turns violent.

A few short hours after Childers launches his mission, the ambassador's safety is secured, but three of Childers' men are dead, along

with more than the 80 Yemeni men, women and children killed by Marine gunfire.

Childers now faces a court-martial for violating the rules of engagement by killing unarmed civilians.

He denies the charge, contending the protesters were armed and had opened fire on the Embassy. But it appears that the government has made the colonel the fall guy for an ugly diplomatic crisis: the men who could have testified on his behalf have been killed in action, one of the witnesses seems to be lying, and the President's National Security Adviser destroys evidence that might help Childers' case. Childers refuses to go down quietly and turns to his longtime friend, Hays Hodges, to defend him.

"Rules of Engagement" stars together Academy Award-winning director William Friedkin and a renowned cast and crew for a film that explores the ambiguities of battle, the split-second decisions that must be made in combat, the character of men and women who put themselves in harm's way for their country, and, above all, the bonds of friendship that the one person's fate to another's.

"Rules of Engagement" is a film that presents some serious issues — life and death issues — as they involve the military," Friedkin says. "I tried to make the film as authentic as possible by drawing on a dedicated group of present and former Marines."

A set of principles conceived by government bureaucrats, rules of engagement dictate when soldiers may use force against a perceived enemy and when they must hold back, no matter the risk.

More often than not, the terror and confusion of actual battle thrusts soldiers into situations in which no rules apply. When the crucial moment arrives, a



Tommy Lee Jones (left) and Samuel L. Jackson star in "Rules of Engagement."

split-second decision must be made or comrades will die.

Col. Childers is forced to make that life or death decision, only to find himself on trial later for fulfilling a mission his country ordered him to undertake.

Childers describes Childers as "a career Marine who does what he feels is correct. Sometimes he bends the rules, but he wants to get results. He believes in his country, he believes in his Corps, and he's true to his fellow warriors at all costs."

"The character I play has been in the Marine Corps all his adult life," says Jones. "His father was a

general in the Corps and so was his grandfather. He was in Vietnam in the '60s as a platoon leader, where he was shot up rather badly in a battle and had to come home. He became a military lawyer, and now toward the end of his career, he finds himself defending a good friend in a court-martial, which he's reluctant to do because he doesn't think of himself, rightfully, as a very good lawyer."

"Rules of Engagement" is rated "R." It is set to open in theaters Friday, April 7.

## Rules of Engagement

Directives issued by competent military authority which delineate the circumstances and limitations under which United States forces will initiate and/or continue combat engagement with other forces encountered.

— Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms

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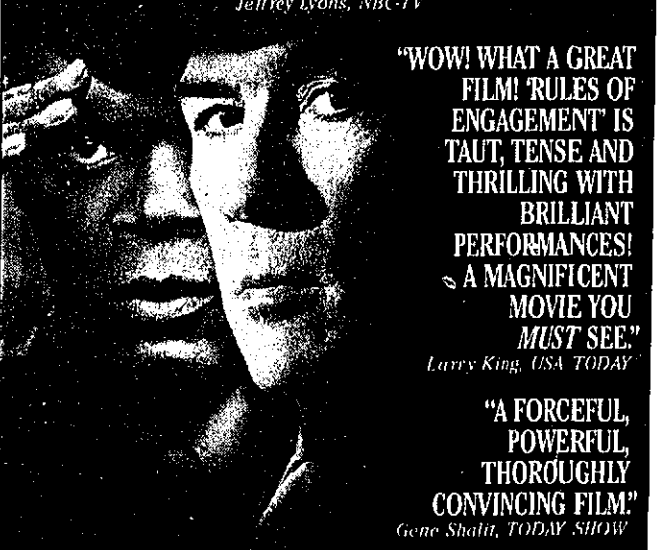
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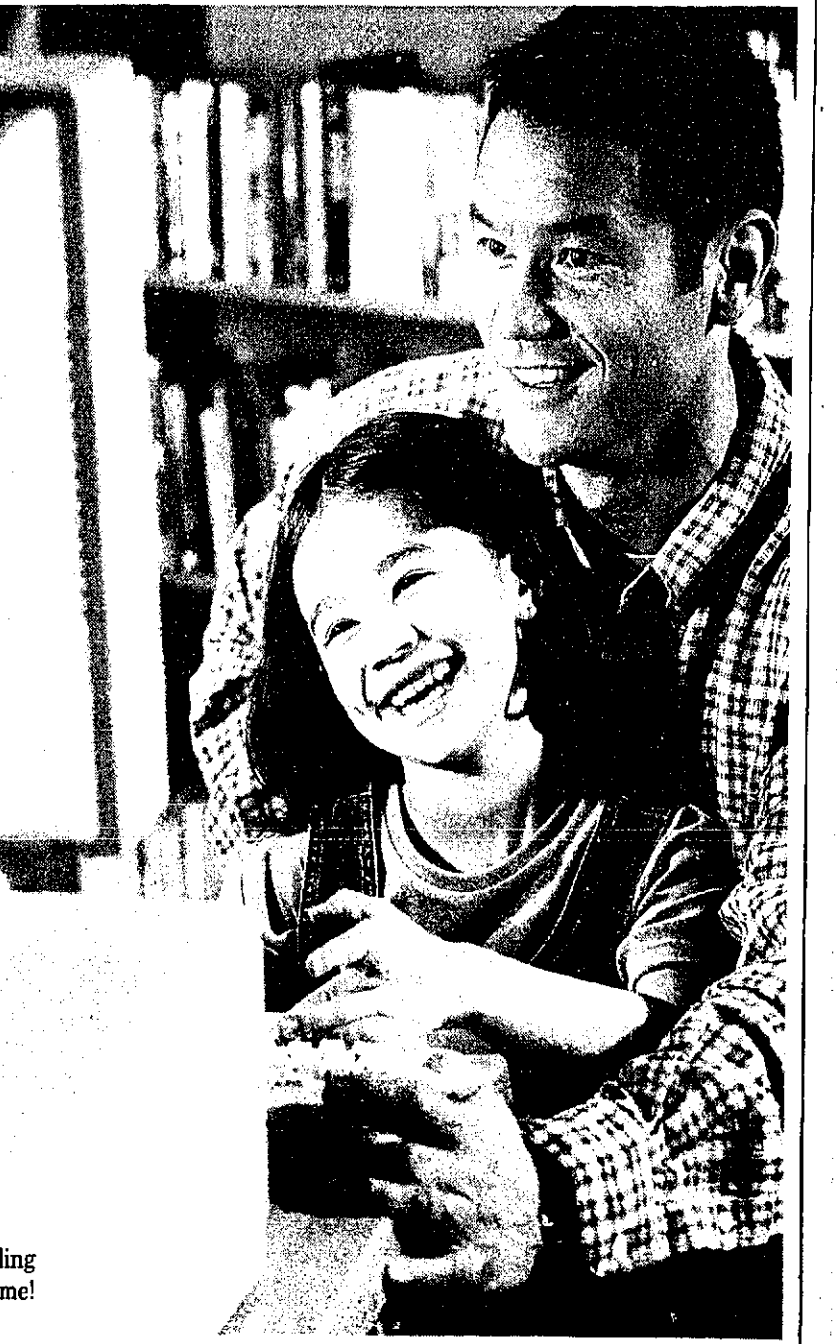
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# Swinging for the fences

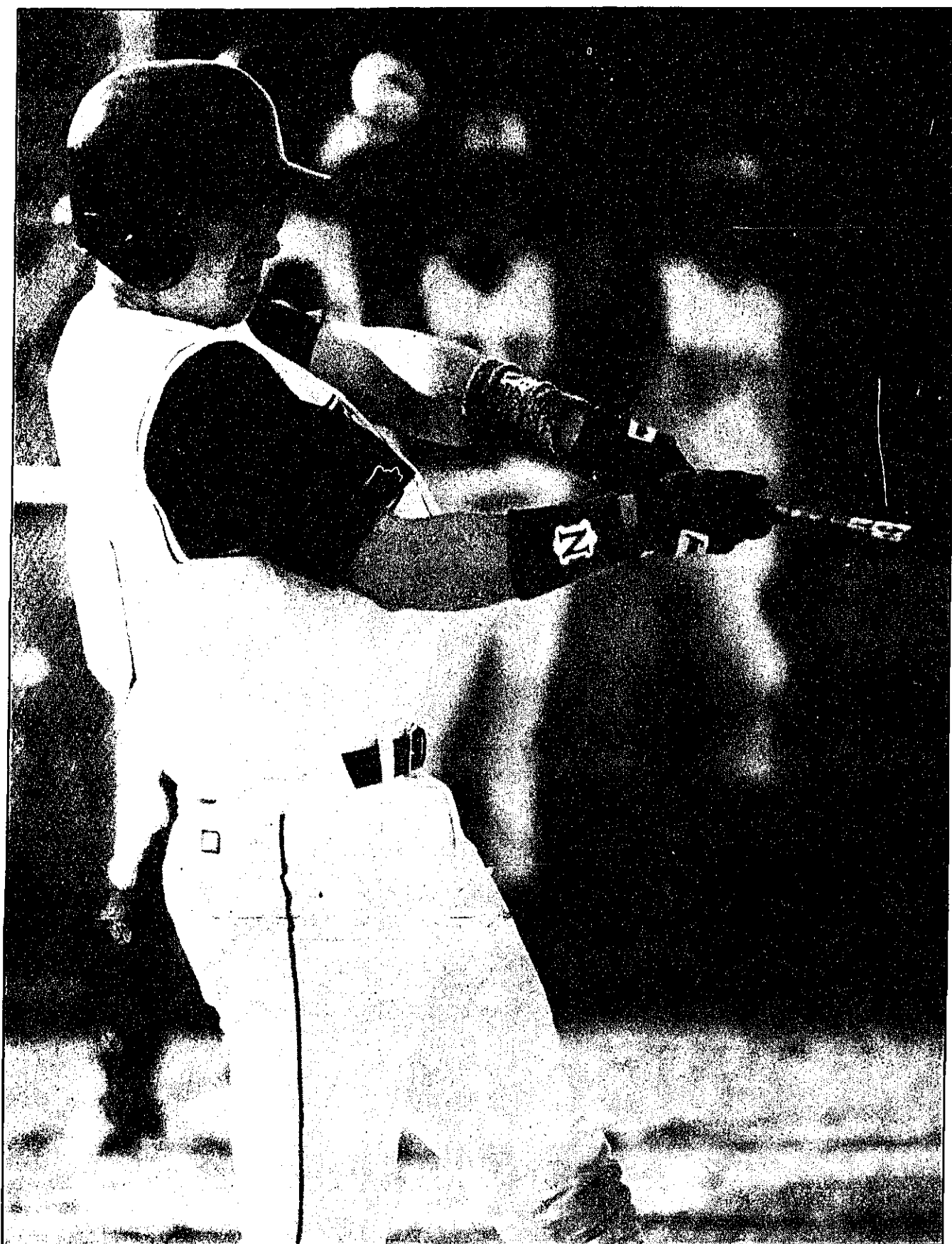


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Jon Cervi (above) and his Novi teammates are looking towards goals above and beyond winning a conference title.

## *Slew of talent should demand state's respect*

By DAN KITTLE  
Special writer

A year ago, it took a Jon Cervi late-inning bomb to take down the seemingly invincible Brighton Bulldogs. The few still in attendance cheered mightily as the hero rounded the bases and stomped on home plate, signaling the team's only defeat of the Kensington Valley Conference's elite ball club.

This year, as the two teams tangled to open up the 2000 high school baseball season, the fans who came out in full force and packed Osborne Park saw no such heroics. There was no mobbing at home plate. There was no seven-inning nail-biter. This one seemed to be in the books before it even got started.

From the beginning of the game, it was evident in the mere demeanor of the Novi ball players that this team was different. This team exuded a persona that told everyone they knew how to win. This team was convinced that they were the dominant team in the league, and nothing could be done by anyone—especially the defending champions—to derail their train ride to the top.

From the first pitch to the last, the Wildcats were dominant, looking like Ivan Drago against Apollo Creed in Rocky 4. Behind the unhittable hurling of southpaw A.J. Rowe, the new look team from Novi sent the Bulldogs back to their home town with their heads lowered and their tails between their legs.

When all was said and done, the final score read Novi 9, defending champs O. Rowe was unbelievable. After making an early adjustment to allow him to change speeds more often on hitters, he breezed through the Brighton lineup, allowing four hits and two walks in the shutout. Of the 29 hitters he faced, 20 were strikeout victims, a career high which tied the state record currently held by three other players including Brighton graduate Drew Henson.

"I think we played well," Rowe said following the victory. "I pitched the best game that I've

ever pitched."

"We didn't get to see much of our defense today," coach Riek Green commented with a laugh. "It was fun to see somebody so completely in command as he was out there."

Offensively, many contributed, with Justin Shaw leading the way. In the bottom of the sixth, the senior shortstop smashed a bases-clearing double to left. Earlier in the inning, Mitch Maier hit the team's first home run of the year, a solo shot to deep right, and Josh Sabol had a key two-RBI single back through the box in the third to bust the game open offensively for the Wildcats.

Also contributing were Cervi and Rowe with two hits apiece, and Brendan Hadley scored three times on a 1-for-2 performance with a pair of walks.

"Our offense looked real good," said Green. "It seemed like everyone hit the ball well. It was nice to see."

"It was nice to finally get Brighton for once," added Maier. "We played as a team, we had good coaching, and I think we're going to have a good season."

**A long road to the top...**

The hope floating around the Novi practice field is so thick that if it were smoke, it would surely collapse even the healthiest pair of lungs.

This team's expectations are as high as they've ever been, with aspirations of a state championship dancing in the heads of every member of the ball club. From the way these players talk, it seems as though anything short of a KVC title and a district championship would be extremely disappointing.

Says Green, "I feel they believe they can win the KVC and get out of districts. They think this is their year."

This year's team possesses more than its share of strengths, but Green feels the team is centered on its versatility and athleticism. "The way I picked the team this year was based on ver-

Continued on 6

## Baseball

## Softball



## What's inside?

Inside you'll find complete spring previews for the girl's golf, track and softball teams along with the boy's tennis, track, lacrosse and baseball previews. Also included inside are the complete season schedules for each of these teams.



## Back to back?

### Softball team looks to win 2nd-straight league championship

By JASON SCHMITT  
Sports Editor

Despite all the hoopla surrounding a team in the preseason, it still has to come out and beat Brighton before it can become legit.

Last year, the Novi softball team did just that, but still finished just a game above the perennial powerhouse. The Wildcats were the overwhelming favorite to walk away with their second-consecutive Kensington Valley Conference title this season, but guests who made an unwelcome house call?

That's right, Brighton.

The Bulldogs came to town last Friday afternoon and escaped with a split of the two teams' doubleheader at Novi High School. Although neither team gained or lost any ground on the other, it was Novi who split the twin bill on their own turf.

Both games were close, as Novi fell 2-1 in the opener only to fight back for a 5-4 win in the nightcap.

The split leaves both teams 1-1 in conference play. The Cats came into the game looking to get out to an early lead in the standings, something they were able to do last year. With Joelle Frantz on the mound and a plethora of hitting talent behind her, Novi still looks to be the favorite to repeat.

Junior Sally Flusker will play backup to Bajorek at third or wherever the team may need her on the infield.

The outfield is pretty much set with Victoria Kaiser locking up the left-field position. As a freshman last year she hit .275 with 20 runs scored and 12 RBI. But it may have been her glove in the field that kept her in the starting lineup.

Diglio's lone freshman on the varsity will try to replace graduated senior Adrienne Farrell.

Both will be catching and both have their distinct strengths. It's too early to see who the permanent catcher will be.

Junior Sally Flusker will play backup to Bajorek at third or wherever the team may need her on the infield.

Although Frantz will carry most of the pitching load, junior Erica Briesacher is the team's second pitcher and because of her good bat may see time at other positions.

Those 13 players are what Diglio hopes she'll need to lead her team to a second-consecutive league

said of her three captains. "They are three different personalities out there."

Bajorek will hold down the starting third base position.

Sophomore Megan Colligan returns to her starting position at first base. As an incoming freshman last year, Colligan hit .360 and was third on the team with 20 RBI. Her feared bat also led to a team-leading 20 walks.

"She is really stroking the ball right now," her coach said. "I think you'll see a lot of great things out of her this year."

Vanessa Bywra is starting at shortstop after playing almost anywhere a year ago. Diglio was able to put her in the outfield or infield, depending on where the team needed a glove. She's a strong all-around player who will anchor the infield.

The last time Novi had to bring in a new catcher was in Diglio's first year as a coach. Now in her fifth year, she'll have two new catchers to break in. Sophomore Holly VanCleave and junior Allison Tingwall will try to replace graduated senior Adrienne Farrell.

Both will be catching and both have their distinct strengths. It's too early to see who the permanent catcher will be.

Junior Sally Flusker will play backup to Bajorek at third or wherever the team may need her on the infield.

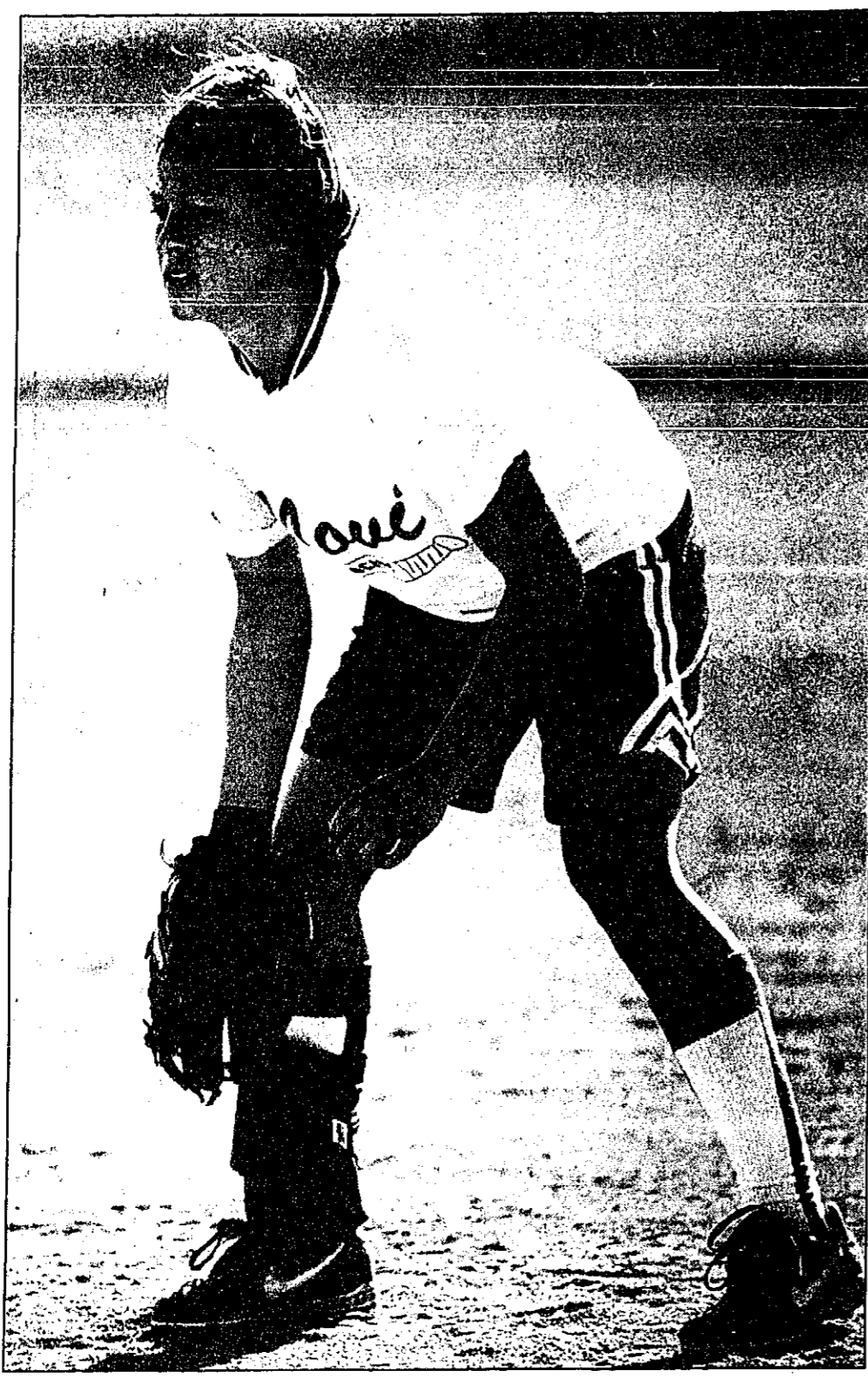
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Those 13 players are what Diglio hopes she'll need to lead her team to a second-consecutive league



Novi senior tri-captain Katie Cameron may have the most feared bat in the KVC this season.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

## Opening the door to hope



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## Lady runners have balance

By JASON SCHMITT  
Sports Editor

Mickie Rzepka has missed the early portion of the season with a stress fracture in her foot.

Erin Reid is currently out with a back injury and may be out for much of the season.

Winn Schmitt decided to go out for the soccer team instead of competing on the track team.

Are there any more obstacles Novi girls track coach Sue Tomanek and her squad must endure before their first league meet against Brighton today?

Well, Tomanek hopes not because she'll need all her remaining horses to pose even the slightest threat to the overmanned Bulldogs.

Like many years, the team has its share of star athletes, but what makes this team different from years past is its balance throughout the 17 events.

"For the first time I feel a little more balanced than I have in the past," Tomanek said. "I have at least a scorer in every event. Depth however, is a problem, especially against bigger teams."

Novi has several key returnees on their roster, including Rzepka, who won the Kensington Valley Conference 100 and 200 meter titles both last year and in her freshman season. She'll miss some time, but for now a pair of freshmen have stepped in and proved themselves worthy. Jayne Westfall and Emily Modick scored valuable points in the two events in Novi's 52-45 win over Northville last week. Erin Quinn, who will be a key member of Novi's mile relay quartet, won the 200.

Tomanek has another pair of freshmen which she says forms her "fantastic freshmen." Crystal Corte and Amanda Smith have looked really strong in the middle distance events and have both solidified a position in the mile relay.

Both Rice is another senior who will run both the 400 and 800 and could be a part of the 3,200 relay. Jenny Thompson and Margo Wolowicz are another pair of freshmen who have distance experience and

could run the mile and or help out in the 800.

Sophomore Bethany Kittle is back after a strong showing as a freshman. She competed in the mile and two mile last year, but would like to run all the way down to 400. With Schmitt not coming out for the track team, Tomanek may have to use Kittle in the distance events.

Kittle may have to join Kristina Utley and Kristin Echols, both seniors. The three made a deadly trio last season and Utley and Echols will run the mile, two mile and compete on the two-mile relay.

Moving over to the field events, Novi will hurt somewhat in the hurdling events with Reid out. But Kelley Phelps returns and will take over the No. 1 spot. Mary McDougal will help out in the 100 hurdles and Laurel Weiss and Kiley Elfring have shown promise in the 300 hurdles.

The Cats are really solid in the throwing events, with Stephanie Primore returning as the No. 1 thrower from a year ago. She'll be joined by fellow returnees Nicole Bliss and Christina Terrell. Freshman Autumn Wallace has looked good in the early going as well.

Rzepka and Rice are the team's top pole vaulters and will need to carry the team in that event.

Kate Rose is the team's No. 1 long jumper and Weiss and Westfall will also compete in the event. McDougal will move over from the hurdles to take her place as the team's top high jumper. Phelps and Christina Kennedy will also high jump.

Tomanek stressed her concern for lack of depth in the distance events.

"In the past I would have several runners, so I could save the girls and put them in different events," she said. "The girls now have to run more and I hate to do that to them."

Against teams like Brighton or Milford, that could come into play. Novi finished second to Brighton in the KVC last year and Tomanek feels Brighton will once again be the team to beat.



Submitted Photo

### Motion girls win again...

The Michigan Motion 11U girls AAU Basketball Team won 6 straight games to clinch first place at the Aims High basketball tournament April 1 & 2. The team also came in first place at the at the Joe Dumars field house on March 25, 2000. The team started out their season by winning 2nd place at University of Michigan Dearborn basketball tournament on January 15, 2000. Team players are: Jessica Barndt, Kristine Chaklos, Charli Coram, Kelli Corless, Stephanie Crawford, Emily Esbroock, Rachele Folino, Ashleigh Green, Lisa Harden, Kristen Marzonia, Ashlee Swett, Katie Trentacosta, Katelyn Tucker, Katie Walker, Kellie Walker. The team is coached by Todd Krzysnik and Chris Westover.



Submitted Photo

### Tigers win title...

The Novi Tigers were finalists in the Little Caesars Tier II PeeWee B Division playoffs. Team members include Bryan Miller, Alan Massey, Nick Maslak, Bobby Watts, Mike Martinez, Matt LaFleur, James Kim, Tim Fick, assistant coach Tom Kane, Jaron Byrd, Tyler Laling, Jesse Lachman, coach Don Massey, Ross Priests, Zach Melvin, Joe Maslak, Eric Monuzzi, assistant coach Dave Priests and Mike Berger.

### Sports shorts

#### COLTS REGISTRATION COMING UP

Registration for the 2000 Northville/Novi Colts fall football season will be on Saturday, April 8 at the Novi Civic Center from 9 a.m. to noon. As with last year's program, the Colts will be fielding three teams: FRESHMEN (Ages 8-9, weight 60-105 pounds); JUNIOR VARSITY (Ages 9-11, weight 105-125); and VARSITY (Ages 11-13, weight 125-150 pounds).

Registration for the three cheerleading teams will also take place on April 8. For further information regarding any of the teams, please contact Cathy Thomas at (248) 348-4282.

#### SUBURBAN HOCKEY LOOKING INTO GIRLS

LEAGUES  
Suburban Hockey is conducting preliminary inquiries as to the feasibility of a fall hockey league for girls 12 and under, with all games to be played at the Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills and Novi Ice Arena.

The league would adhere to all Michigan Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey rules, which means there would be no checking. The league

would create an atmosphere of competition at two convenient locations for girls who want to play hockey with other girls at their age level.

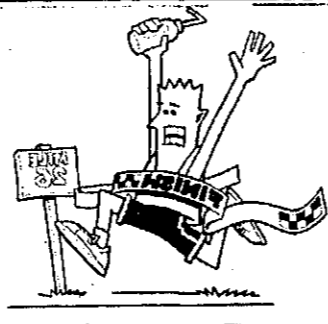
Those interested in such a program should contact Amy Jones at Suburban Hockey (248) 478-1600 and indicate their interest by April 15. If enough interest is received, a registration period will begin immediately.

#### SPRING BREAK BASEBALL CAMP

Total Baseball's Spring Break Baseball Camp will take place April 24-26 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Powers Park in Novi. This camp will be instructed by Lee Bjerkic, assistant coach at the University of Detroit and Aaron Knieper, former Montreal Expos professional player.

This camp will cover fielding, hitting, pitching, base running and more. Drills will be given to help improve each player's game. This camp is a sure hit. The camp is for ages 7-17, fee is \$100 per player. Registrations can be taken by phone at (248) 668-0168 or via mail, at 30990 S. Wixom Rd., Wixom, MI 48393 (inside of Total Soccer).

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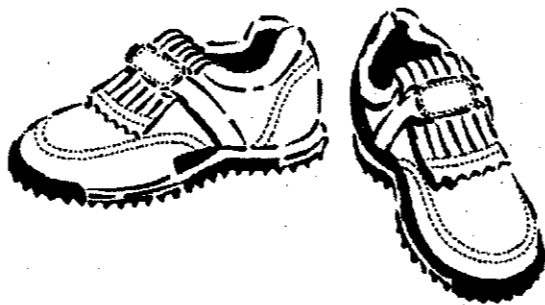
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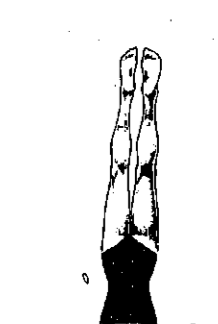
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# Rowe strikes out a record 20 Bulldogs in 9-0 win

Continued from 1

satisfy," the coach says. "I can move a starter out, put somebody in, and not be hurt at all. It's also a more athletic team than we had last year."

The versatility of this ball club comes in the great amount of players who are athletic enough to play multiple positions. Especially in the infield, a number of players can move around to just about any position and play it well.

At first base, Hadley got a surprise start there in the opener against Brighton. But there are others who should see significant time. Jeremy Plass and Justin Guilley will play there as much as possible, with Plass hitting against lefties and Guilley facing the right handers. Brendan Watson will also fill in at times at first base, but probably not as much as a year ago, according to Green, because of the plethora of outstanding first sackers this team possesses.

Many players will see time in the middle infield and at third base this season. Against Brighton, Shaw got the nod at short, while sophomore Brandon Davis landed himself a starting spot at second base.

"Shaw earned the start at third. He's been working hard in the offseason," Green praises Shaw. "He's become a very steady third baseman."

Shaw can also slide over to third or second if necessary, and Davis can move around as well, seeing time at short and third. Nick Lehnert is also a vast-improved senior who can play any one of these three positions. Green comments, "Nick's made himself a lot stronger. With his arm strength and his bat, he's going to be an asset to this ball club."

Matt Gorman, another sophomore who got the chance to move up to varsity this year, will see some time at second, despite the fact that he started the Brighton game in left field. Speaking highly of both Gorman and Davis, Green says, "It's tough to keep those guys out of the lineup because they're such good athletes. They run well, they're good in the field, and they're both going to be good varsity hitters."

The mainstay at catcher this year will

once again be Maier. As a senior, Maier has once again grown leaps and bounds in athletics. He will provide both an offensive weapon and a steady defensive force behind the plate.

"He's looking very good," says Green. "He's got very good arm strength, and I think he'll get better as the season goes on." Backing up Maier will be Plass and Trey Simpson, a sophomore who is a solid hitter and a good defensive catcher. "He's definitely one of the catchers of the future," comments Green.

In the outfield, Cervi returns as the team's starting center fielder. Already, he is showing signs of the ability that landed him on the all-state squad a season ago. "Jon's picking up where he left off last year. It's a pleasure being able to coach him again for his senior year," says Green. "Guys like that are very talented, with a great combination of power and speed. It's very rare."

In right, Mike Kossak looks to land most of the time. He's good with the glove, and can contribute at the plate as well, with no noticeable weaknesses in his game. "We love him," says Green, speaking for the entire coaching staff. "We love his work ethic, we like his arm strength, his swing. We like how he asks questions and wants to make himself a better player."

Junior Kyle Major will also see time in the outfield, and at first base, as a defensive replacement. According to Green, "The team we certainly not lacking in his swing. We like how he asks questions and wants to make himself a better player."

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The team will have an interesting mix of hurlers this year, the best of which should be Rowe. He is easily the team's number one starter, with Watson likely following him, according to Green. "He's a finesse pitcher," the coach says about Watson.

"He's got great accuracy and movement."

Maier will also pitch a lot of innings, as will Davis and Shaw. Major and Dan Truhar will work in middle relief and as spot starters.

"I really think the key to our team is how our two, three, four, and five pitchers do for us this year," says Green. "It's very good with the glove." Watson will take over as lone captain of the team this



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Senior lefty A.J. Rowe mowed down a state record tying 20 Brighton hitters in

season, complimented by assistant captains Maier and Cervi. When asked why he chose Hadley, Green replies, "What I like most about Brendan is his competitiveness. I think you saw that a lot at the basketball court."

With the season already underway, hope is soaring for a dominant year filled with championships for this veteran ball club. "We're playing pretty well," says

Cervi. "Things are only going to get better. We're playing well as a team. It's pretty exciting, and we have high hopes for this year."

Rowe got more specific with his forecast, boasting, "I think we're going to be really good, and I think we should make it out of the district no problem. I also think we should walk through the KVC."

The team continued its run at a league title last night against the Milford Redskins (after The Novi News' deadline). Tomorrow afternoon, they travel to South Lyon for a doubleheader with the Lions at 4 p.m., then take on Walled Lake Central at WL Western the following morning at 11 a.m.

"I think we'll do very well," Watson adds, offering one final comment about the season. "Anything short of a KVC title will be disappointing."

# Rating the KVC's best — Novi looks pretty darn good

By JASON SCHMITT, SCOTT KELLEY and STEVE BELL  
Sports Editors

rior to this past week's games everyone associated with the Kensington Valley Conference had Novi pegged to win the league baseball title this spring.

"Looking at what the Wildcats have back from a team which finished 11-7 in league play last year makes one wonder, 'How can they do it?'"

Novi's hitting and pitching may be unparalleled, with the leading two hitters back from that third-place team along with a returning pitcher who will have the scouts making many trips out to Novi this season.

Hartland won the KVC title a year ago with potential powerhouse Brighton just a game back. Neither team won so many ball games because of their seniors alone. They'll both be in the hunt this spring, as well as veteran Lakeland squad.

The sports editors of HomeTown Newspapers talked with coaches and players in selecting the top talent that league has to offer, both on the mound and at the plate and in the field. Here's what we came up with.

## 1. Brendan Hadley Novi senior first baseman

A year ago he was the most feared hitter coming into the season, and he hasn't lightened up any this year. The hard-hitting senior has hit .471 last season after hitting a whopping .500 as a sophomore. That year he earned a spot on the 1998 Michigan Dream Team as one of the top 11 players in the state.

He has a combined 18 home runs in his two years and has scored 88 runs and driven in another 61. Another year like he had two seasons ago and he could threaten Drew Henson's state record .527 career batting average and move into second place in the state record books for home runs, which is currently held by Scott Perrat of Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart.

Last year he protected Jon Cervi in the early lineup, but this year the role may be reversed as the league takes aim at our number two player.

2. Jon Cervi  
Novi senior center fielder  
It's hard to believe that just over two years ago Cervi was slugging balls on the

junior varsity squad while many of our other top 10 players were making a lasting impression at the varsity level.

Cervi took advantage of that last year and led the league with an astounding .527 average batting just ahead of Hadley in the Novi lineup. This season everyone knows Cervi's name, and for good reason. The senior led his team with 33 runs scored and 38 batted in last year. He was also the team's best baserunner, swapping a team-leading 11. He's been eye at the plate kept him from whiffing too, as he struck out just six times in 91 plate appearances.

This season Green has placed Cervi at the top of the batting order to better utilize his speed on the basepaths and get him some extra plate appearances this season. Defensively, Cervi doesn't miss a step and will be Novi's centerfielder.

3. Erik Kumor  
Hartland junior catcher  
The Highlanders have a solid lineup this season, but their best overall player Howell has had the last couple of seasons.

Walters is both a pitcher and infielder for Howell where has been successful at both. Defensively he has quick feet, a good glove and a strong arm, making him a solid player no matter where he is on the infield.

At the plate, Walters can hit with the best of them. His experience is a huge bonus for him as he looks to lead the Highlanders to a good season.

7. Matt David  
Milford senior second baseman  
Midway through last season, struggling with a shoulder injury, David was hitting well under .200. Then he went on an absolute tear, and ended up with a .355 average and second-team all-league honors.

"He's one of the most intelligent players I've ever been around," Milford coach Jason Melynechek said. "Matt will make a good coach some day."

4. Chris Hardin  
Lakeland junior first baseman  
He'll miss the first month of the season with an ankle injury, but don't count out Hardin from putting up some impressive numbers anyway.

Perhaps only one other player in the KVC, Novi's Brendan Hadley, hits for a better combination of power and aver-

age. As a sophomore this left hander hit .361 while driving in 21 runs, scoring 20 runs.

5. Jason Rohraff  
South Lyon senior catcher  
With an arm like his, it should come as little surprise that Rohraff will also be an important part of South Lyon's pitching rotation. But it was behind the plate where he made his name last season.

Mark Thomas said the combination of Rohraff's baseball savvy, leadership and arm kept the team in a lot of games last season. Thomas said he has so much faith in this senior that he'd put him out at any position on the field with little concern.

6. Eric Walters  
Howell senior infielder  
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4. Chris Hardin  
Lakeland junior first baseman  
He'll miss the first month of the season with an ankle injury, but don't count out Hardin from putting up some impressive numbers anyway.

Perhaps only one other player in the KVC, Novi's Brendan Hadley, hits for a better combination of power and aver-

### Our Picks

HomeTown Newspapers' sports editors Scott Kelley (Brighton), Jason Schmitt (County Press), Steve Bell (South Lyon Herald) and Jason Schmitt (Novi) have selected the top 10 players in each of the KVC in 2000.

1999 Final Standings	2000 Prediction	2000 Prediction	2000 Prediction
Hartland (15-3) 1st	Novi	Hartland	Hartland
Brighton (14-4) 2nd	Hartland	Lakeland	Lakeland
Novi (11-7) 3rd	Hartland	Novi	Novi
Howell (9-9) 4th	South Lyon	Howell	South Lyon
Lakeland (7-11) 5th	Brighton	Brighton	Milford
South Lyon (6-12) 6th	Brighton	South Lyon	Howell
Milford (1-17) 7th	Milford	Milford	Brighton

Jason Schmitt, Scott Kelley, Steve Bell

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SINOR

# Golfers hope to improve in KVC

By JASON SCHMITT  
Sports Editor

Last year the Novi golf team struggled to a sixth-place finish in the Kensington Valley Conference, partly due to a lack of experience and a young team.

So as this year's team assembled at Pebble Creek for tryouts, Coach Deb Harris should have seen a senior and junior-dominated group of girls on the first tee. But that's not what happened.

Instead, she has an incredibly large group of underclassmen, which includes eight sophomores and a pair of incoming freshmen. Her lineup consists of just one senior and two juniors.

Fortunately for Harris, her senior back is Tara Stevens, her team's most experienced player, who brings with her a wealth of talent and experience from the past three years on varsity. She'll lead the team as the No. 1 golfer.

"She's clearly our top golfer, but it's hard to tell how well she'll play because it's still cold out there. But from what I see she's playing pretty well right now," Harris said.

Battling it out for the No. 2 position so far have been sophomore Carolyn Vermeulen and junior Jodi Waara. Both have been shooting very close to one another early on. Waara joins Stevens as a co-captain of this year's team.

From there, the fight for starting varsity positions are up for grabs. Junior Lisa Yin has impressed her coach early on with her improve-

ment over last year's scores. She was a first-year golfer last year, but has raised her game into varsity shape.

Sarah Ehlers, a sophomore, played extensively on varsity a year ago and returns with experience.

A few "nice surprises" out for this year's team include sophomores Jenny and Lindsey Broadwell, along with Holly Graziano. They, along with Sarah Wilson, Kim Coleman and Sarah Kucharczyk round out the sophomore class. Brittany Neville and Amy Auletto are the two incoming freshmen.

Harris isn't expecting miracles, but hopes to see her team progressively get better.

"Quite a few of these girls are tennis players, or pom pom or cheerleaders," the coach said. "They're athletes, so we're just going to see how they develop."

# HomeTown rates KVC's best

Continued from 6

Other positional players to watch include: Brandon Davis and Matt Gorman from Novi; Jason Adler and Pat Flynn from South Lyon; Jason Koppczyk and Greg Gelsler from Milford; Shaun Houck from Lakeland; Aaron Ollita and Chapin Cortlandt from Hartland; Tom Murray and Andy Cerkin from Howell; Josh Young, Mike Jakubowski and Brian Lantz from Brighton.

And here we rank the top five pitchers in the KVC...

1. A.J. Rowe  
Novi senior left hander  
Based on his season-opening performance alone, Rowe would merit the nod as the league's best pitcher. He struck out 20 Brighton hitters en route to a four-hit shutout in Novi's 9-0 win last Friday. The 20 strikeouts tied the state record for a seven-inning game.

Plagued with injuries his junior season, Rowe was still able to amass a 4-2 record, collect 84 strikeouts in just 42.2 innings pitched while allowing just 26 hits all season long. His 1.80 earned run average was the best in the league.

"I've already received two calls from pro scouts," his first-year coach Rick Green said. "We been working with him and this year he's able to throw more off-speed pitches. He's added a split finger and a curve that he'll be able to use more often."

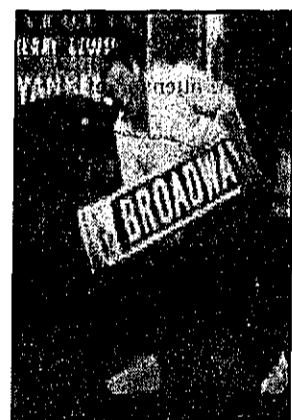
2. Heath Craven  
Hartland senior right hander  
The Eagles will be looking to Craven to pick up where he left off last season. The senior fireballer has a good arm and great accuracy. Last year he ranked one of the top records in the league and is looking to continue the same this season. His only downfall might be the fact he throws too many strikes.

3. Charlie Christian  
Brighton junior left hander  
Last year Christian came in as a sophomore and put on a clinic while on his way to a 9-2 overall record. The left handed pitcher has a variety of pitches to throw and appears to have some more speed on his fast ball. With a year of varsity experience behind him, Christian will be expected to carry a lot of the load for Brighton this year. Unfortunately it doesn't appear he will have the offensive power behind him like he had last year.

4. Jason Jacobs  
Lakeland senior right hander  
Last season teammate Kenny Gignac had better numbers, but Lakeland coach Aaron Strand considers those two pitchers 1 and 1a. Houck was a particular nemesis of rival Milford, notching two complete game wins against the Redskins. At the plate Houck hit .292 and reached base nearly half the time. He led the Eagles with 13 stolen bases. All things being equal, Houck will finish this year as Lakeland's all-time leader in stolen bases and be among the top 10 in innings pitched and strikeouts, as well as hits, runs scored, runs batted in and doubles.

Others to watch on the mound include: Tony Kern and Jason Rohraff of South Lyon; Josh Sabol of Novi; Kenny Gignac of Lakeland; Mike Tyvisynski and Jordan Delling of Milford; Mike Jakubowski from Brighton; Kane Clark from Howell and Mike Cieszkowski from Hartland.

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# Health

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## Health Column

### Reducing the risk of heart attacks

A low-fat spread made from vegetable oil with added sterol esters could reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke for millions of people, according to a study presented today at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. Sterol esters are similar to cholesterol, which is found in meat and dairy products. But sterols are derived from plant oils. The substances are structurally similar to cholesterol so they interfere with cholesterol absorption in the intestines.

The good news is that the sterol spread seems to lower LDL - low-density lipoprotein, the so-called "bad" cholesterol - without lowering HDL, also known as the "good" cholesterol levels are a huge problem. Roughly half of the U.S. population has high cholesterol.

There are two FDA-approved cholesterol-lowering spreads. The one used in this study, Take Control, contains vegetable oil sterol esters from soybeans. The other spread, Benecol, contains plant stanol esters, which come from wood pulp from pine trees. The stanol-based spread has been used in Finland since 1995. The spreads won U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval this year and are sold in grocery stores.

Cholesterol is a fatty substance that forms deposits in the blood vessel. Blood vessels that become severely blocked by cholesterol deposits are unable to supply blood to the heart or brain, triggering a heart attack or stroke.

In a study of 224 people with cholesterol levels in the mildly to moderately high range, the spread lowered cholesterol levels at doses of one or two grams per day over a five-week period, Maki said. The subjects in the study were

divided into three groups. The control group followed a low-fat, low-cholesterol diet and consumed a control low-fat spread. The other two groups followed the same diet with one group eating the one-gram dose and the other taking two grams of the sterol spread. The study was a "double-blind study" in which neither the researchers nor the subjects were aware of which spread the subjects were eating.

According to Maki, more was not necessarily better when it came to the sterol spread's cholesterol-lowering benefits. In fact, those eating two grams per day of the substance showed similar cholesterol-lowering rates as those eating the one-gram amount. The drop in LDL cholesterol was 7.6 percent in the one-gram group and 8.1 percent in those consuming two-grams per day. The control group participants who didn't consume the soybean spread saw an average increase in LDL cholesterol of 2.7 percent.

"It surprised us that the low- and high-dose versions of the spread offered almost equal benefits. That's good news because you don't have to consume very much to get cholesterol-lowering, which might keep the cost down. However, it was disappointing because we had hoped that the more the subjects ate, the more their cholesterol levels would decrease," Maki said.

People with very high cholesterol levels will still need to follow a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol and probably take cholesterol-lowering drugs as well, Maki says. Individuals with a total cholesterol level of 200 milligrams per deciliter (mg/dl) have a relatively low risk of heart disease. However, the risk of heart disease increased by 50 percent in those with a

total cholesterol level of 240 mg/dl. Study participants had a level of 240 mg/dl when the study began.

Because sterols affect cholesterol metabolism, researchers wanted to know if they would reduce the good cholesterol that helps clear the bad cholesterol from the blood stream. The spread did not affect HDL cholesterol levels. It did, however, lower the amount of the antioxidant beta-carotene, which is fat-soluble and transported with cholesterol. Antioxidants help prevent damage from oxygen free radicals, which are unstable molecules that can damage cells. Although beta-carotene levels dropped by as much as 20 percent in some of the study participants, they remained in the normal range.

Previous studies show that simply eating a diet that is low in both saturated fat and cholesterol can reduce LDL cholesterol levels by 5 to 10 percent. "So, if on top of that you can get another 5 percent reduction with a product like this, you're talking about a 10- to 15-percent reduction in LDL cholesterol, which over time may reduce the risk of heart disease by 15 to 30 percent or more," said Maki.

"Compared to the 20-percent reductions associated with some drug therapies for high cholesterol, a 5-percent drop in the bad LDL looks pretty small. But in terms of public health significance, 5 percent translates into potentially millions of reduced heart attacks."

Co-authors include Michael H. Davidson M.D.; Denise Umprorowicz M.S.; Ernst Schaefer M.D.; Mary R. Dicklin Ph.D.; Kate A. Ingram M.P.H., R.D.; Shirley Chen Ph.D.; Brian Gebhart Ph.D.; and William C. Franke Ph.D.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. I have trouble sleeping (either too much or too little) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. I have trouble concentrating, or my mind goes "blank"   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. I feel irritable; I can't relax                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. I notice my heart beating rapidly                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. I feel worried, anxious and fearful                     |

If you answered "yes" to 3 or more statements, you may be suffering from an anxiety disorder, a serious condition affecting millions of Americans. The Institute for Health Studies is currently looking for individuals experiencing the above symptoms to participate in a research study of investigational medication for anxiety. If you are selected, all research related care and study medication are provided at no cost. Get answers and information about anxiety.

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Robert J. Bielski, M.D.

## Health Notes

### Food Allergy Counseling

Individuals with food allergies can receive counseling on food choices and substitutions from a Botsford Hospital professional. The fee is \$30. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (248) 477-6100.

### Prostate Cancer Support Group

Offering knowledgeable speakers each month, this support group provides encouragement and education about prostate cancer, its treatment and the physical and emotional issues associated with it. It meets the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. and it's free.

Sessions take place in Botsford's 2 East A Conference Room, 28050 Grand River Ave., in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 477-6100.

### Foot and ankle consultations

Experiencing heel pain, bunions, hammertoes, fungus nails, warts, ankle pain, ingrown nails or other foot ailments? The Foot Health Centers offer an initial consultation free of charge, excluding x-rays, lab tests or treatment. The Foot Health Centers, operated by Dr. Ken Poss and Dr. Randy Bernslein, are affiliated with Botsford, Sinai, Oakwood and Kern hospitals. They have two area locations, at 41431 W. Ten Mile Road in the Novi Plaza at Meadowbrook, and 30931 W. Seven Mile Road in Livonia. Call (248) 349-5559 or (248) 478-1166 for more information or to schedule a consultation.

### Menopause Support Group

Providence Medical Center-Providence Park in Novi offers a free monthly support group for women who have concerns about menopause.

The group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Providence Park Conference Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., at the corner of Grand River and Beck in Novi. The purpose of the support group is to provide women with educational information on topics relating to menopause. For information, call (248) 424-3014.

### Free Foot Screenings

Free foot screenings are offered every Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Botsford General Hospital, Suite 200, South Professional Building, 28060 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills.

For more information or to make an appointment, call (248) 473-1320, weekdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

### Heart Disease Risk Reduction Programs

These risk assessment and reduction programs are designed to help modify risk factors associated with heart disease. The fee is dependent on the level of programming.

Call Botsford General Hospital at (248) 471-8870 for more information.

### Health Risk Appraisal

Do you know what your health risks are? Botsford's health risk appraisal includes blood pressure, total cholesterol and hdl readings. There is a \$50 fee and an appointment is required.

For registration and information, call (248) 477-6100.

### Intermediate Water Aerobics

This is a 50-minute water exercise class for postnatal and postphysical therapy patients. There is a \$35 fee for the six-week course and registration is required.

For registration and information, call the Botsford Center at (248) 473-5600.

### Child Clinic

Oakland County Health Division's Child Health Clinics provide free ongoing well care for children from birth to school entry. Families who do not have an hmo or Medicaid may be eligible. Clinics are held at 14 locations

throughout Oakland County.

Services include heights and weights; head to toe physical examination; immunizations; vision, hearing and lab testing; growth and developmental screening; and counseling as needed.

Appointments are required.

For more information, call: north Oakland, Pontiac: (248) 858-1311 or 858-4001; south Oakland, Southfield: (248) 424-7066 or 424-7067; west Oakland, Walled Lake: (248) 926-3000.

### Panic attack and agoraphobia support group

They have monthly meetings starting in September at both Northville and Livonia locations. It's a comfortable group support setting for individuals experiencing panic attacks. The cost is \$5. For more information call Susan Franceschi at (734) 420-8100.

### ABCs of Weight Loss

A registered dietitian will work with you individually for three months to set up a realistic weight loss plan, organize your appetite and discuss the best strategies for weight loss. A \$95 fee and appointment is required.

The class is sponsored by Botsford's Health Development Network, 39750 Grand River Ave. in Novi.

For more information and to register, call (248) 477-6100.

### Asthma Education

Individual sessions with a registered nurse can provide the tools to better understand and manage asthma. Day and evening sessions are available. Families are welcome.

There is a \$30 fee and an appointment is required.

For more information and to register, call (248) 477-6100.

### Breastfeeding Basics

This workshop covers the "how to's" of breastfeeding and answers questions and concerns of women who are already breastfeeding.

The fee is \$20, and the classes are held at Botsford's Health Development Network in Novi.

For information and registration, call (248) 477-6100.

### Circuit Training

This is a multi-stationed exercise and education program designed for the individual with limited experience using fitness equipment. Participants will be instructed on the proper use of weight and cardiovascular machines.

The class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m.

The fee is \$70 and preregistration is required.

For registration and information, call the Botsford Center for Health Improvement at (248) 473-5600.

### Martial Arts for Special Children

Conducted by a black-belt martial arts instructor, a physical therapist and an exercise therapist for children ages 5-16 with special needs such as cerebral palsy, add, or sensory integration dysfunction.

This is a continuously revolving eight-week course held on Friday evenings from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Providence Medical Center-Providence Park in Novi. There is a charge of \$100.

To register, call 1-800-968-5595.

### Cancer Support Group

"Focus On Living," a self-help group for cancer patients and their families, meets the first Wednesday of each month at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia.

Co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society, "Focus on Living" provides an opportunity to discuss concerns, obtain answers and gain support from others who share the same experiences.

Registration is not necessary, and there is no charge to attend.

For more information, call (313) 655-2922, or toll free 1-800-494-1650.



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