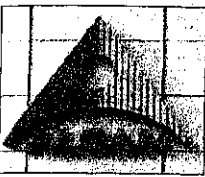


BUSINESS



Welcome to Novi

Alcan Automotive rolled its first aluminum bumper off the production line at its grand opening Wednesday in Novi. The new manufacturing facility is located at 46555 Magellan Drive in the corporate park west of West Park Drive and north of Twelve Mile Road.

— Page 7A

SPECIAL SECTION

Women in the Know

This 32-page section is packed with stories of interesting and influential women in the area.

OBITUARIES

Wayne Edward Vicklund, 59
Ryan Kyle Pfeiffer, 27

— Page 6A

SPORTS

Wildcat Domination

Just what are Novi's intentions in the Kensington Valley Conference this year? It seems the soccer team has full intentions of being one of the most dominating teams ever to play in the league. If that's the case, then they're on the right track.

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Still 'no' to Hooters

■ Council again denies liquor license request

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Novi City Council revisited Hooters of Novi's request for a liquor license transfer for the third time Monday night, denying the request again

in a 4-3 vote. Charles Lane, the Clinton Township attorney representing Hooters, said Tuesday that a lawsuit will be filed against the city in Oakland County Circuit Court by the end of the week or next week. "There's no rush. We will ask the court to grant us the liquor license transfer due to the fact that we've met Novi's criteria for the granting of a liquor license. We will also be seeking damages for lost profits," Lane said. "The reconsideration of Hooters'

request at the May 3 council meeting came after council members denied Hooters' request for a liquor license transfer from R.H.F. Enterprises, Inc., 2635 E. Highland, to 44375 Twelve Mile, Suite G-155, at Fountain Walk, at their April 17 meeting. "Obviously, they were afraid by the press that they were receiving that their position was unsupported. They felt it was necessary in order to protect themselves from a lawsuit to restate why they were denying the request and try to put

it on legal grounds," Lane said. "They didn't have much to go on in their denial," he said. Those voting to approve Hooters' liquor license transfer included Mayor Lou Csordas and Council Members Kim Capello and David Landry. Those voting to deny the request included Bob Gatt, Lynne Paul, Laura Lorenzo and Toni Nagy. No votes changed from the April 17 meeting.

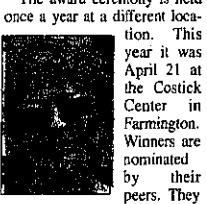
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Driven to excel

■ Baggett wins transportation award

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's always an honor when someone is recognized for doing a good job at their place of work. That's why Novi Bus Driver Pagine Baggett, Walled Lake Bus Driver Clara Arnold and Walled Lake Bus Dispatcher Shirley Dertinger should feel proud to win the Oakland County Excellence in Transportation Award for this school year.



The award ceremony is held once a year at a different location. This year it was April 21 at the Costick Center in Farmington. Winners are nominated by their peers. They receive a plaque with their names, another plaque which is placed in their department for all to see and a nice dinner to top it all off.

Baggett, who not only is a bus driver but a bus trainer and the union steward for the drivers, explained that a winner is picked annually based on the number of nominations they get. "I felt really good to win, but I was totally shocked I won," said Baggett. "I went on vacation and when I came back they said I won it. It felt good to know that a lot of nice letters were written saying that I'm dedicated."

continued on page 2



Science comes alive
As it's perched on her arm, Alexandra De La Cruz gets an up close look at "Oliver" the military macaw parrot during last week's visit to Novi Woods school by Science Alive. Students also got to watch as a three-banded armadillo waddled around on their desktops.

Photo by John Heider

Dealing with deficit

■ Board puts two renewals and one new millage on June ballot

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community School District Board of Education was quite efficient in conducting its business last Thursday. During a special meeting at the Educational Services Building, which only lasted about a half hour, the board made two important decisions that could have considerable impact on the district in the near future.

The board decided to put two millage renewals and one new millage on the June ballot and layoff four administrators (see related story) in an effort to cover a \$4.3 million deficit. According to Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance, the two millage renewals are basically non-issues. When the state changed the way schools are financed in 1994, Novi was allowed to levy 18.00 mills against

"non-homestead" properties and 5.49 mills against "homestead" properties (current state law, however, only allows the district to levy 4.0411 mills, a 1.48 mill reduction against "homestead" properties). That same year, Novi voters passed these millages for a period of 10 years.

Those 10 years are now up, and the millage renewal propositions will be on the June 14 ballot. Koster said that these renewals are very critical to the district, as they generate over \$20 million. Each year the state determines the amount each district receives on a per-pupil basis. This amount is the sum of the non-homestead taxes and an amount from the state. State law only allows Novi to levy a millage equal to \$591 per child. As more homes are built, the tax base increases, but the amount per child never increases. Thus, the millage rate continually declines. "Even though back in 1994, they said they said we could levy 5.49

■ Administrators whose salaries total over \$314,000 to be laid off

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Facing a \$4.3 million deficit next school year, the Novi Community School District Board of Education passed a resolution Thursday to layoff four administrators with salaries totaling \$314,218.

• William Main - assistant director of maintenance - \$52,699
• Jennifer Cheal - executive director of instructional services - \$111,449
• Carol Diglio - Novi High School dean of students for attendance operation - \$75,035
• Jami Hiechock - Novi High School dean of students for student activities - \$75,035

Originally, the board was considering laying off five administrators, but decided to reduce that number to four. Executive Director of Human Resources Bob Schram said Adult Education Supervisor Belinda Seal-Sweet (\$63,145) was dropped from the list because that program is funded by fees from students

and fees from federal government programs. "We have determined that there is enough revenue to keep Belinda on board," Schram said. "If she went away, the program would go away. The money from the students and the federal government are more than enough to cover the whole cost of the program plus her salary."

Under state law, there is a process the board must use in order to terminate administrators. If the administrators aren't given notices within a certain period of time, their contracts automatically get extended for one year. That is why the recommendation for layoffs was made before knowing which way the board will go to deal with the deficit. The district was required to advise the five administrators of the recommendation to the board, which was done on March 22. The board then passed a resolution March 26, indi-

continued on page 2

Movie marathon for money

■ Benefit for children with leukemia

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

Movie lovers took advantage of an opportunity to participate in the "Hollywood Nights" 24-hour Movie Marathon at Emagine Theatres in Novi to benefit the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan (CLF) last weekend.

Participants were required to raise a minimum of \$94.70 in pledges for donations to the Children's Leukemia Foundation for the chance to watch as many movies as they wanted during 24 hours, beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday.

The 134 participants raised a total of \$23,000 for the CLF at the movie marathon, surpassing the \$16,000 collected at the event in 2003. People came from as far as Eastpointe and Grand Blanc to participate in the fund-raiser.

"We were very pleased with the outstanding response and the amount raised," said Jim Blackledge, marketing and public relations director for the CLF. Diane Fickany of Wixom raised the largest amount with \$1,560 in contributions. She said about 30 people responded to an e-mail she sent asking for donations to it. "It's always nice to contribute

continued on page 5

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Driven to excel

continued from front page

This year marks the award's third in existence and Baggett's first time winning it. "I try to be a team player. Any job you need done, I try to help take care of it and I try to keep a positive attitude. Kids always come first."



Courtesy photo

Walled Lake Bus Driver Clara Arnold and Walled Lake Bus Dispatcher Shirley Dertinger earned Oakland County Transportation Awards along with Novi driver Pagie Baggett.

Arnold has been a bus driver for Walled Lake Schools for 10 years. She was also shocked to win.

"I'm thrilled," she said. "The girl who nominated me is a new driver. I was so overwhelmed because I think it was just a wonderful thing that she did for me. I think it's a great thing for them to do this for the drivers. It gave me a huge boost. I was very surprised because our job is, as far as I'm concerned, one of the best jobs you can have. I work with great people. I love my boss. No two days are the same."

Last year Walled Lake's head secretary and head mechanic won the award. This year it was a driver and Shirley Dertinger, who drove for 20 years before becoming an office dispatcher. "I was quite tickled when I won," Dertinger said. "I was very impressed that a few people nominated me. It's quite an honor to be picked."

Dertinger explained that driving a bus is a very gratifying job, but being in dispatch is also gratifying.

"You have to deal with a lot of different elements," she said. "Instead of just the roads, you deal with the parents, you deal with the coaches that are upset because the bus isn't there yet, and you deal with the drivers who are calling in because of the roads. It's quite different than driving."

Baggett is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rlharr@ht.homecomm.net

"It felt good to know that a lot of nice letters were written saying that I'm dedicated."

Pagie Baggett
Novi bus driver

Dealing with deficit

continued from front page

mills against non-homesteaded properties, another law in the state says that Novi can't levy 5.49, but it can only levy up to 4.0411," Koster said. "We can't levy any more than that right now in 2004. The board is asking for another 10 years, which would be the same funding that we had since 1994. They put that on the ballot for an election."

As for the new millage, the state tax code, originally written in 1917, states that a school district may levy a millage for operating systems of "public recreation and playgrounds." That means there are portions in Novi's budget labeled "Community Recreation," which are currently funded by the district's general fund. The idea is to levy a recreational millage for those services, thereby diverting the money raised to educational programs.

"We're not alone. There are quite a few districts that are doing this right now," Koster said. "We have the community recreation portion of the budget and we have all the stuff around it like the heat, the lights, all the custodial services - that we provide to keep this thing going... all the outdoor maintenance for recreation to do all the softball, soccer and after activities. All that kind of stuff which is done on our facility which our community uses is community recreation."

Koster said that the community vote on June 14 will basically determine the survival of the district. "I think that if people understood what this is and why we're doing it, I think they would vote yes for it," he said. "This is a last ditch effort, within the legal limits of public schools, to seek that millage. I think the board would be remiss if it didn't give the community that choice. There are districts that are almost dead. Before Novi gets to that level, this board has to give the community a choice. By the ability to do this, the board has to

"This is a last ditch effort, within the legal limits of public schools, to seek that millage."

Jim Koster
Novi Community Schools
assistant superintendent of business and finance

instruct the community about it, so the people can make a wise choice. If they didn't, they would be criticized for not offering the choice. If this option is there that would prohibit the decline of the instructional component of the students, this board has an obligation to give that to the community as a choice. Those who don't give that choice are remiss in this day and age."

continued from front page

cing non-renewal is under consideration. Schram then gave a written notice of the board's consideration to the five administrators. The administrators then had the right to meet with the board within 30 days to be able to state why they shouldn't be let go.

After the 30-day period, which was last Thursday, the board passed a resolution of non-renewal of four administrators. Now, a written notice will be given to the four at least 60 days prior to the date of lay-off, which is targeted for June 30.

According to Schram, none of the employees elected to meet with the board within the 30 days because they realized this is a budget situation.

"The employees had the option to request to meet with the board during that 30-day period. Typically when you terminate somebody it's because of poor performance, which is obviously not the case at all," Schram said. "What the law intended was that the employee would have the ability to meet

with the board to plead their case as to why their jobs shouldn't be terminated."

Schram gave two scenarios of what could happen in the near future.

"If the two millage renewals and the new millage all pass, the two layoffs of Cheal and Main would still be in effect. However, the two deans at the high school will be retained."

"If the two millage renewals and the new millage do not pass, the board will have three options. They can elect to keep the two deans and spend more of the fund equity; they can get rid of the positions; or they can keep one and not the other."

Since the four are now officially laid off, the board now has the option to rescind the layoffs, meaning that they can be called back to duty after July 1 if the financial outlook improves.

Ramesh Khari is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rlharr@ht.homecomm.net

VOTING NO		NOVI CITY COUNCIL		VOTING YES	

"It is statutorial that we have local approval. The Commission cannot override a local decision."

Linda Wood, secretary to the director of licensing, Michigan Liquor Control Commission

Council again says 'no' to Hooters

continued from front page

Although the decision to deny the request initially took place at the council's April 5 meeting, with a tie vote of 3-3, the council decided to postpone the vote until the April 17 meeting because Council Member Lynne Paul was not present. Paul subsequently voted to deny the request April 17.

Lorenzo, who made the motion to deny the request Monday, said she believed that a Hooters restaurant would have negative impact on the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. She cited the numerous liquor license violations that the restaurant has been cited for, including six sales of liquor to minors.

"She also suggested that Novi police would be diverted from other priorities if a Hooters restaurant opened in the city."

"What about the possibility of Hooters having a restaurant in Novi without a liquor license?" "In all likelihood, if we don't have a liquor license, Hooters will not open the restaurant," Lane said. "If Hooters considering moving their new restaurant to another location?"

"No, not at the present time, but that doesn't rule it out. Any decision we make is based on economics. We have the legal grounds to sue and to be successful in the city, but we still look at the economics involved," Lane said. "Toni Nagy said she could grant the liquor license transfer if it was

any place but Fountain Walk. Maybe we still have a yes vote in Novi," Lane said. "We would very much like to say to the public that we're opening on May 15th, but we're not. Disappointed? Yes," Lane said.

"Fountain Walk is a \$170-million project. It's huge, and it's going to need somebody to draw people to that facility. It needs more than just ice cream shops and popcorn. It's a misconception that it's just for children. It's an entertainment complex for everyone. It's a new lifestyle mall," Lane said.

According to Lane, Fountain Walk management wants someone who's economically solid and would draw people to the area.

"It's too bad that some council members feel they can make a better business decision than the Fountain Walk management as to who would be good tenants or not," Lane said.

Linda Busse, marketing director for Fountain Walk, said, "Fountain Walk is a shopping and entertainment center and, as such, our plan is to offer a variety of restaurant options, with Hooters being one of them. This summer, three more restaurants will hopefully be opening, and Hooters is just one piece of our restaurant component."

"As far as Fountain Walk is concerned, the Hooters operation will continue to operate in Novi. We will have a similar type of business nearby. What is the distance between the proposed Hooters and Buffalo Wild

Wings?" Paul asked City Manager Richard Helwig. "Probably about 50 yards," Helwig replied.

In supporting Hooters' request, Coardas said he was reminded of the city attorney's recommendation and advice he received long ago from currently Building Department head Don Savant.

"He told me, 'There will be times when you disagree, but if the applicant has met all the requirements, you must vote to approve,'" Coardas said.

Lorenzo said she believed that for the city council to approve the request would hamper local efforts to prevent drinking and driving in the city.

"Serving alcohol is an awesome responsibility. Hooters has a terrible track record both here and out of state. To minimize that risk in the face of those efforts to reduce drinking and driving, it sends a mixed message to the citizens of Novi," she said.

"It is statutorial that we have local approval," according to Linda Wood, secretary to the director of licensing, Michigan Liquor Control Commission, in Lansing.

"The Commission cannot override a local decision," she said.

Paul noted that one of the criteria for granting a liquor license or license transfer is that the business must have a similar type of business nearby.

"What is the distance between the proposed Hooters and Buffalo Wild



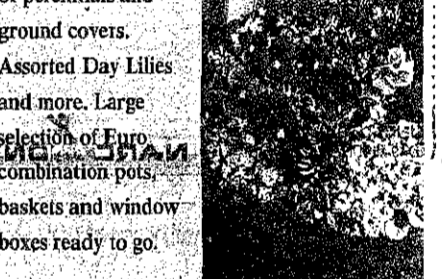
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Sweet Success

The Novi Chamber held its 12th Annual Charity Auction on Saturday, April 24. The event, held at the Hotel Baronette, was a great success, according to Nikki Pearse who served as event chair.

The Chamber is grateful for the participation of Mayor Lou Csordas, who served as honorary chair and auctioneer, WDIV Weatherman Chuck Gaidica, who was master of ceremonies for the evening; and for the many businesses and volunteers who helped make the evening a success.

Major sponsors included: Platinum - Varsity Lincoln Mercury and Gender Mountain.

Gold - Bob Sellers Pontiac GMC Isuzu, Hotel Baronette, Novi Expo Center and Johnson's Printing Services. Silver - Community Financial, Novi News, Providence Hospital, Twelve Oaks Mall and UAW Region 1.

The Chamber holds the Charity Auction each year to raise money to fund operating expenses as well as to benefit a designated charity. This year's charity recipient was "Sweet Dreamzz Detroit" an organization dedicated to providing sleep essentials to at-risk children.



Above, Novi's Petland brought a pair of attention-getters, puppies, for those who wanted to bid on their live auction item: \$800 toward the purchase pets or products.

Below, live and raffle items on display.



Diamond Castle Jewelers donated a 1/2-carat, brilliant-cut diamond that was hidden among 100 cubic zircons. Those feeling lucky enough to find the real gem could purchase a rock (and a glass of champagne) and keep their fingers crossed until the end of the evening. The lucky winner was Terri Bowen, pictured above (left) with her husband, John Bowen (Novi Expo Center), and Clay (City of Novi) and Jennifer Pearson.



Kathleen Donnelly, founder of Sweet Dreamzz Detroit, gave a heart-warming presentation on how her organization evolved and where the night's proceeds would go.

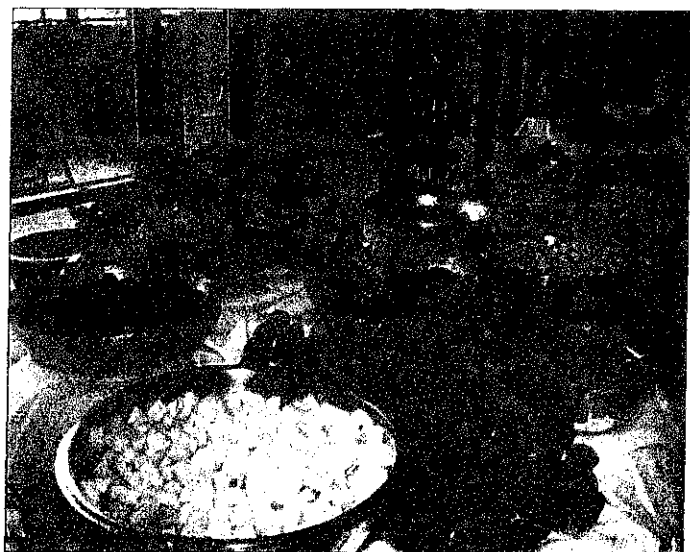


Rick Roe, a member of the Professors of Jazz at M.S.U., entertained on a keyboard donated by Piano Nation, Bob Sellers, Republic Bank and Fountain Walk sponsored the evening's music.

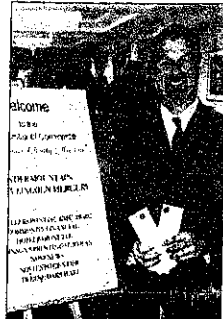


Above, WDIV weatherman Chuck Gaidica goes over the evening's agenda with Nikki Pearse, chairperson.

Right, the dessert table drew a long line after the live auction. Sponsors for the sweets included Bob Sellers Pontiac GMC Isuzu; Brit Irrigation; Cityscape Architects; Enterprise Rent-A-Car; Hotel Baronette; Ramco-Gershenson; Marty Feldman Chevrolet; Republic Bank; Ronald Baldwin; TDS Metrocom; Tetra Tech MPS; and Way Yee Associates.



Nora Champlon, president of the Novi Chamber of Commerce.



Art Johnson, of Johnson's Printing Services, greeted folks.



Above, Lou Csordas, mayor of Novi, did a wonderful (and hilarious) job of serving as the auctioneer.

Left the auction was a great success due to the efforts of many, including Cheryl Traver, Isha Mathur, Christy Seaberg, Julia Peter, David McClymont and Lori Gestro.



Peggy Hayes, from 12 Oaks Mall, helped with check-in.

Movie marathon for money

continued from front page

to such a good cause. This is the perfect event for us because we love going to the movies," said Fickany, who participated in the event with her friend, Elaine Bazyllo of Mt. Clemens, for the fourth straight year.

Fickany won a one-year pass for two to Emagine Theatres for her fund-raising effort. She is working with the theater company to figure out a way to share the passes with the people who contributed to her donation.

Michael Head of Commerce Township raised \$150 through contributions from his coworkers at Lakeland High School where he is a teacher and student activities director.

"I'm so busy working, I rarely get to the theater so it was a great opportunity to take advantage of the event and support a good cause at the same time," said Head.

Erin Hinchman of South Lyon donated \$163 to CLF for the movie marathon. She planned to stay all night and watch as many movies as possible with her two friends from Redford and



Photo by John Heider

Movie-goers enjoy the 10 a.m. show of "Envy" last Friday at Novi's Emagine Theater as part of its 24 hour movie marathon fundraiser for the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan. Movie marathon spokesman Jim Blackledge said that the foundation had raised approximately \$23,000 in pledges by noon.

Farmington Hills. Hinchman works as a billing analyst in Southfield.

"Seeing so many movies was the incentive along with supporting the organization that helps kids right here in Michigan," said Tony Brutz of Wixom, who raised \$120 for the CLF. He is employed as a manufacturing technician in Ann Arbor.

The movie viewers were able to choose from any of the 15 different movies playing in 18 theaters

at Emagine Theatres located at Fountain Walk. They also enjoyed all the pop and popcorn they could eat compliments of Emagine Theatres and received lunch and dinner on Friday and breakfast Saturday morning from CLF and its sponsors.

"Hollywood Nights" was sponsored by Emagine Theatres, 947 WCSX radio and the Daily Oakland Press. Emagine Theatres made the Novi facility available for the fund-raising event for CLF.

"We were pleased to participate in this event for such a good cause and hope the participants enjoyed our beautiful facility," said George Yarbout of Grand Blanc, general manager of Emagine Theatres in Novi.

Yarbout said that the theaters remained open all night exclusively for the participants in the CLF event. It required having a manager, projectionist and concession employees work overnight, he added.

Sen. Cassis: MDOT shouldn't trade new roads for new rides

Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Nowi, is co-sponsoring several bills that would provide more legislative oversight to MDOT and ensure taxpayer money is being used responsibly.

The Michigan Department of Transportation's plan to spend \$5 million of funding on new passenger vehicles for MDOT employees instead of road projects like the Wixom Road interchange is irresponsible, Cassis said.

"Spending \$5 million on new vehicles when our roads are crumbling simply doesn't pass the smell test," Cassis said. "Rebuilding the Wixom Road interchange is critical to the health, safety, and economic development of the Novi and Wixom communities. I am appalled to see MDOT acting this irresponsibly."

Cassis has been working with local leaders and community members since 1997 to make the Wixom Road construction project happen. While in the House, she amended the MDOT budget to add a study of the Wixom and

Beck interchanges and guided the project's inclusion into the 5-Year Road and Bridge Plan.

"The Department of Transportation often points a finger at Washington, saying they need more federal money to repair our crumbling roads and bridges," Cassis said. "Washington may have trouble taking us seriously when they see the state spending gas-tax money on new rides instead of new roads."

Senate Bill 1147, which calls for legislative approval of

MDOT's 5-year plan, is currently before the Senate Appropriations Committee. A bill introduced April 22 would require the State Transportation Commission to get legislative approval before issuing bonds for local projects.

"MDOT is an agency that collects taxes from everyone and reports to no one," Cassis said. "Antics like this make it clear that legislative oversight is needed to ensure taxpayer money is being used in the most efficient and effective manner possible."

Sen. Cassis can be reached at 313-237-2222 or ncassis@legis.mi.gov.

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County says to use 'smarts' to fend off West Nile mosquitos

Spring is here, time to get outside and enjoy the warmer weather. However, before you head outdoors the Oakland County Health Division would like to remind you to use "Mosquito Smarts."

Mosquitoes that breed West Nile Virus (WNV) thrive in dry weather and stagnant water, while heavy rains flush mosquito breeding sites reducing the number of adult flying mosquitoes.

Public health officials urge individuals to take precautions to minimize exposure to mosquitoes and protect themselves from WNV. Don't wait until mosquitoes are present, it's important to take precautions against West Nile Virus throughout the year.

"We've had a very dry start to the season. The Health Division continues to stress prevention to avoid mosquito bites, especially when attending outdoor events," stated George Miller, manager/health officer of Oakland County Health Division.

Reduce your risk of West Nile Virus with the three R's - Repel, Report, Report.

• Repel - Minimize activities where mosquitoes are present, such as shaded areas. • Repel by spraying clothing with insect repellent containing no more than 35 percent DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide). When using insecticide or insect repellent, follow manufacturer's directions to use. • Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants outdoors. • Maintain window and door screening to keep mosquitoes out of buildings. • Report dead crows to Oakland County Health Division's West Nile Virus hotline at 877-377-3641.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause inflammation and swelling of the brain. Mosquitoes are infected by biting a bird that carries the virus. WNV is then spread to humans through the bite of the infected mosquito. Most people who are infected with the virus have either no symptoms or experience a mild illness such as fever, headache and body aches. However, in some individuals, particularly the elderly, a much more serious disease affecting the brain tissue can develop. For more information, visit www.co.oakland.mi.us/health.

Report dead crows to Oakland County Health Division's West Nile Virus hotline at 877-377-3641.

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Medispa a first

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

A local physician, Dr. Sheryl Conn, has opened the first medispa business in a day spa facility in Michigan when she recently began operating out of Salone Nadwa in Novi.

"We're the first day spa and medispa to offer both services in one location in Michigan," said Nadwa Yono, owner of Salone Nadwa in the Novi Town Center on Grand River. "The spa business has become more medical in the past two years with the two businesses coming together."



Photo by Duane Ramsey

Nadwa Yono (left), owner of Salone Nadwa, observes a "MegaPeel" skin treatment performed with ultrasound equipment by Dr. Sheryl Conn on an unidentified patient.

Dr. Conn came to the spa looking to branch out of her family practice and to begin performing medispa treatments that are not conducive in a medical office. Those medical treatments must be performed by a physician or under the direct supervision of a doctor, she said.

"My patients at the clinic were asking me to do laser skin treatments and microdermabrasion," said Dr. Conn, who practices out of the Medical Clinic at Northville. "I think patients prefer to have those type of treatments performed in the more relaxed atmosphere of a spa setting."

The medispa business includes medical skin evaluations, microdermabrasion or exfoliation of the skin and chemical peels with ultrasound, laser hair removal and vein therapy, according to Dr. Conn. She decided to bring those medical services to the day spa where many potential patients for those treatments are already customers.

The procedure rather than have a technician doing some of those procedures," Dr. Conn said.

"It's unusual for doctors to operate lasers for hair removal and vein treatments," she added since it is not required for doctors to perform those procedures in Michigan.

She began offering medispa treatments on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Salone Nadwa on April 15. Dr. Conn reported that business is picking up very quickly.

Dr. Conn said that she could perform any anti-aging treatments in the day spa that do not involve surgery. She also plans to introduce Botox and collagen filler procedures in her medispa business this summer.

Her services aren't just for women anymore," Yono said. "It's becoming a trend for men to come to the spa for stress relief and wanting to look younger. Men actually need skin care treatments more than women because their skin is dryer and deeper than a woman's."

Try to cut down on unnecessary meds

By Ernie Harwell

There's no question about it. Everywhere you turn these days there's another advertisement for this or that new pill or over-the-counter medicine. And the medicine aisle in the local drug store contains tens of dozens of medicines just waiting to overwhelm the next unsuspecting shopper.

Everyone needs to take over-the-counter medications once in while. But I think the average person could probably cut down on the need for these things with a little effort.

For example, if you tend to get heartburn you can take a good look at the foods you're putting into your body. It's possible that a better diet can help you reduce your reliance on those antacids. Also, if you have



the time. To me, it just makes sense to try to do it "au naturel" whenever we can.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's too late.

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 33 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling (800) 245-5082.

allergies, you might want to talk to your doctor about lifestyle changes you can make. Who knows? You might be able to avoid taking another allergy pill. We all want to feel good all

Deerfield "informance" concerts held at Deerfield

Students learn much about music through activities

By Elaine Maylen

First and second grade students from Deerfield Elementary School recently held two "informance" concerts to show their families what they have been learning in music education.

According to Deerfield music teacher Ainsley Sontag, an informance concert "combines performance with informing. It brings the music and concepts that students are learning in the classroom into the stage."

More than just a concert, the audience observes some of the methods students employ to train their ears, read music, keep a beat, play an instrument and express themselves through movement or dance.

Learning basic music concepts relates to everything else a student is expected to learn. Music is mathematical as its rhythms are based on subdivisions of time (fractions) which must be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper.

Learning to read music is like learning a foreign language. Most musical terms are in Italian, German, or French. The symbolic notations are a highly developed form of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. Learning the semantics of music is learning a universal language.

Scientifically, music is specific and demands exact acoustics. A conductor's full score is a graph where frequencies, intensities, volume changes, melody, and harmony simultaneously interact following an exact time schedule.

Music has a historical component as it often reflects the events, attitudes and culture at the time of its creation.

Music is physically demanding too. It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, check, and facial muscles, in addition to extraordinary control of

the diaphragmatic, back, stomach, and chest muscles, which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets.

During the Informances, the students performed 11 songs. Each student had two opportunities to demonstrate the specific skills they learned from the song. During the "Sound Song," students sang several verses of rhyming lyrics centered on specific word families. Learning word families helps students learn to read and spell. An example would be the "op" family which might include words like hop, shop, mop, top, etc. Near the end of performing the "Sound Song," students were challenged to come up with a word family and develop a verse on the spot. Learning to square dance during the song "Yankee Doodle," students worked on hearing and responding to eight-beat musical patterns. Following the square dance movements required students to listen carefully and follow directions.

Elaine Maylen is a PTO Mother for Deerfield Elementary School.



Photo by Elaine Maylen

Afreem Qadeer and Krystina Giroux respond to an eight-beat musical pattern as they follow instructions for a square dance.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Outstanding Novi teachers sought

The Novi News will recognize monthly a local teacher for his or her excellence in the classroom.

Nominations come from students, teachers, parents, administrators or community residents who have contact or knowledge of a teacher's classroom activities.

Nominations can be mailed by Novi News, Cal Stone, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167, faxed to (248) 349-9832, or sent by e-mail to cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

The deadline for nominations is the last day of the month. The Novi News staff will select the winner and a feature story and photograph will appear in the Novi News on the second Thursday of the following month. Three nominees will be considered for subsequent months.

To nominate a teacher, please send the teacher's name, school address and the school's telephone number along with a statement of no more than 200 words telling us why this teacher deserves to be the Outstanding Teacher of the Month.

MAURY Project: Exploring the Physical Foundations of Oceanography this coming July.

Malarkey representing Novi

Marianne Malarkey, a fifth grade teacher at Novi Meadows, is one of the three teachers selected from Novi to represent the district as a candidate for 2003-2004 Oakland County Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Senior honors program shortened

The Novi High School academic awards senior honors program will be a little shorter this year. The event is on Thursday, May 27 and instead of calling each student up for every award they won individually, as in years past, each student who won multiple awards will now receive his or her awards in one trip.

Wainwright selected

Susan Wainwright, fifth grade teacher at Novi Meadows, has been selected to participate in the American Meteorological Society's

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

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ON CAMPUS

Novi resident, Grace Denton received second place at Michigan Intercollegiate Forensic Association's Middle Level Individual Events Tournament held at the University of Michigan, April 24, 2004. She is the daughter of Robert and Rosemarie Denton and attends Huron Valley Catholic School, Ypsilanti.

G. Denton

Novi residents Kristen Gracbie, Megan Hsu, Alison Swanson and Elizabeth Song of Novi High School, and Sabrina Joydon of Ladywood High School, Livonia, have been named as National Merit Scholarship Winners for 2004. The National Merit Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

Novi resident David Prud'homme was among the graduates at Hope College during spring 2004 commencement exercises.

Jennifer Chisley of Novi participated in Central Michigan University's Adriatic Spring Break 2004. She tutored elementary students in Plant City, Fla. She is the daughter of Judith and Frederick Chisley of Novi.

Novi residents Gregory Brinnas, Dustin Gross, Heather Haller, Ryan Hatcher, Jen-Yuan Her, Mahesh Kunteekar, Janice Liu, James Morrison, Maimunah Nurullahar, Erika Alpert, Vikram Balant, Laura Hillson, Adrian Herberger, Jung Kim, Amit Nigam, Jeremy Pan, Linda Pippio, John Rezkalla, Wajale Sukra, Danielle Wahlstrom, Michael Dantonon, Glen Crawford and Donna Kleiberg were among the graduates at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor during spring 2004 commencement exercises.

Albion College students were recognized by their faculty for their academic excellence at the College's annual Honors Convocation held earlier this month. The award winners recognized were chosen by the faculty

and represent the College's best students.

Angela Doolin was recognized for her academic excellence with the John Wayne Stringer Award for Journalism. Doolin was also recently inducted into the College's chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honorary society for students who have actively contributed to campus life and scholarship.

Doolin is a senior majoring in English and psychology. She is the daughter of Leon Doolin and Geraldine Sims Doolin of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

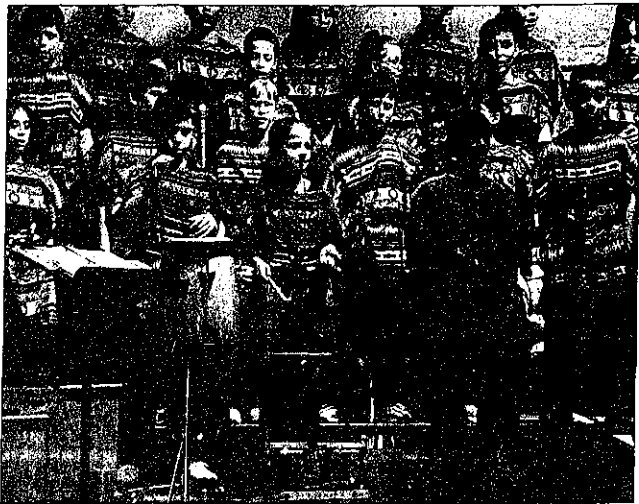
Michael Garabelli was recognized for his academic excellence with a Morley Fraser Leadership Award and a President Bernard T. Lomas Prize. The "P250" is the College's highest award given to undergraduates in recognition of their contributions to the campus community. The Fraser Award honors sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in the classroom, leadership in campus life, participation in College activities and service to others.

Garabelli is a junior majoring in economics and management and is a member of the Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Institute in Professional Management. He is the son of John Garabelli and Mary Garabelli of Novi and a graduate of Catholic Central High School.

Scott Kortlandt was recognized for his academic excellence with a Morley Fraser Leadership Award. The Fraser Award honors sophomores who have demonstrated excellence in the classroom, leadership in campus life, participation in College activities and service to others.

Kortlandt is a junior majoring in chemistry and mathematics and is completing the secondary education program. He is the son of George Kortlandt and Patricia Kortlandt of Novi and a graduate of Novi High School.

Novi resident Ashley Moore has received the Achievement Award from Olivet Nazarene University, Kankakee, Ill. Her sister, Amber Moore, has received the Olive Scholar Award from Olivet Nazarene University. They are seniors at Northville High School and will attend Olivet in fall 2004. Their parents are Steven and Tina Moore of Novi.



It's a small world, at Village Oaks

Village Oaks third grade students celebrated the theme, "It's a Small World... Tales to Tell," by performing the musical "Children of the World" and displaying related artwork they created. The festivities took place at the Forst Auditorium on the High School campus. In the musical, the children sang traditional folk songs from China, India, Japan and Ghana, with accompaniment from the third grade instrumentalists on Orff instruments. Every student had a part in the musical singing in a small group, speaking, dancing or playing instruments. Before and after the musical, everyone enjoyed the Art Show featuring the student's work.

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Orchard Hills invades McDonald's
First grade teacher Becky Hurst takes a well deserved break after serving up the Big Macs. Here, she joins some Orchard Hills students, Matthew Weber, Evan Nielson, Jeffrey Weber, Nielson's little sister and Daniel Lumley.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lakes Area Morning Connection
DATE: Thursday, May 6
TIME: 8 a.m.-9 a.m.
LOCATION: Sign-A-Rama, 1809 Haggerty Rd., Commerce Township

Friends of Maybury State Park Meeting
DATE: May 6
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville Community Library

Container Rose Drawing
DATE: Thursday, May 6
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Community Center, 4575 W. Fox Lake Road

Irish Concert
DATE: Friday, May 7
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Middle School, 3990 D. Mile Road at Wixom Road

Novi Lions Club Luncheon
DATE: Saturday, May 8
TIME: 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 4575 W. Fox Lake Road

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DATE: Saturday, May 8
TIME: 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 4575 W. Fox Lake Road

First United Methodist Church of Northville Youth Musical "Only Jesus"
DATE: Sunday, May 9
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Northville High School, 5000 Northville Road

First United Methodist Church of Northville Youth Musical "Only Jesus"
DATE: Sunday, May 9
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Northville High School, 5000 Northville Road

NOVI COUNCIL MEETINGS
12-Planning Commission-Council Chambers-7:30 p.m.
13-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission-Council Chambers-7:30 p.m.
17-City Council-Council Chambers-7:30 p.m.
18-Library Board-Council Chambers-7 p.m.
20-Historical Commission-Civic Center-10 a.m.
20-Ordinance Review Committee-Council Chambers-6 p.m.
25-Storm Water Committee-Civic Center-7 p.m.
26-Planning Commission-Council Chambers-7:30 p.m.
31-Memorial Day

KINDERGARTEN INFO
Important Dates coming up for children attending Novi Schools Kindergarten 2004-2005
Thursday & Friday, May 6 & 7 - Deerfield Elementary Kindergarten Readiness
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, May 10, 11, & 12 - Parkview Elementary Kindergarten Readiness

Novi Theatres Auditions: Rip Van Winkle and The Magic Flute
DATE: May 18 and 20
TIME: 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Stage

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued from 16
Birth of Center Dinner, raffle, games, bowling, prizes.
PHONE: (248) 957-3627

Win3rd Annual Founders Day Festival
DATE: Sat. May 22
TIME: noon-3 p.m.
LOCATION: Gibson House, 4985 Pontiac Trail, East Farmington

SWOCC Studio Tours
DATE: Ongoing
LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington

Acoustic Music Jam Session
DATE: Second Wednesday of each month
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Mill Race Historic Village, Cay Int. just north of Main Street on Griswold in Northville

Collection of Water Colors by Jane Horan
DATE: Saturday, May 22
TIME: 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 4575 W. Fox Lake Road

Detroit Area Golf Club Open House
DATE: Saturday, June 26
TIME: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
LOCATION: Coyote Golf Club, Milford

Heran Valley Snow Hospital Pickles and Ice Cream Bowl
DATE: Saturday, August 21
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: All Star Lanes, Walled Lake

Novi, MI 48375
PHONE: (248) 477-2000
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church (on Meadowbrook Rd. between 10 Mile Rd. and Grand River Rd.)

Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Days of Atonement"
DATE: Every Tuesday night
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 4701 Grand River, Novi

Women's Prayer Support
DATE: Every Wednesday
TIME: 9-11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Holy Family Catholic Church, 9329 Fortnae Trail, Wixom (parking is behind the church)

Worship Service
DATE: Every Wednesday
TIME: 12:10-12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Church of the Holy Cross, 46200 Ten Mile Road (between Beck and Tall Oaks), Novi

Adoption Program
DATE: First and third Friday of the month

Free Blood Pressure Screening
DATES: every Monday
TIME: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
LOCATION: Charter House of Novi, 24500 Meadowbrook Road



Irish concert
Michigan's popular Irish band Blackthorn is coming to Novi, mixing Irish tunes and humor on May 7 at the Novi Middle School, 4900 11 Mile Road at Wixom Road. Carol Bauer, President of the Friends of the Novi Library, said, "This event is a fundraiser. The Friends are offering this concert free to members of the Friends and for \$15 to others."

Novi Toastmasters
DATE: First and third Tuesday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 4575 W. Fox Lake Road
TIME: 7:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase month-of-month referral business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.

Oakland County Health Division Expectant Parent Classes
DATE: ongoing series
LOCATION: Oakland County Health Division, 1010 East West Maple, Walled Lake
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
DETAILS: Classes will be taught by Public Health Nurses. Topics will include childbirth preparation, labor and delivery, care of the newborn baby, breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, information about keeping children safe, and caring for them when they are ill. Cost is \$25.

LET'S TALK Jewelry with Gary S. Weinstein Gemologist. THE COLOR OF LIFE. It is fitting that emerald should be the birthstone for May, a time when nature displays her verdant glory. The member of the beryl family gets its color from the traces of chrome and vanadium that infuse the otherwise colorless pure beryl.

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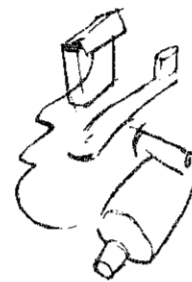
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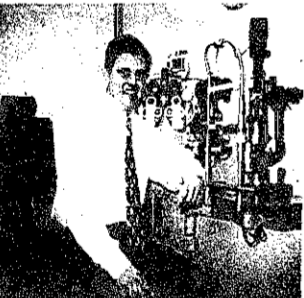
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Swanson Family Eye Care offers personalized service



By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Craig Swanson and his team of professionals at Swanson Family Eyecare, located in the Grand Oaks Centre in Novi, are dedicated to bringing patients the highest level of service. With a combination of a highly trained staff, individualized care and quality products, Dr. Swanson and his staff want to change the way people view their eye care. "We want all of our patients to know that they have received a professional eye exam and allow them to make the right decisions about their eye care needs in a relaxed and welcoming environment," Dr. Swanson said.

Dr. Swanson has been in practice for more than 13 years in the Novi area. He earned a doctorate in optometry, is residency trained in the treatment of eye diseases and was on staff in the ophthalmology department of the Detroit Medical Center for 10 years. He noted that less than 10 percent of optometrists in the U.S. have completed a residency training program.

The staff at Swanson Family Eyecare includes Dr. Swanson's wife, Sue Swanson, business manager, who has a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in business. Ruth Jaffe, ophthalmic assistant, has extensive training as an optician, a contact lens technician and as an exam room assistant.

Barry Potter, a certified optician with more than 30 years of experience in the business, oversees optical services. Swanson Family Eyecare provides comprehensive dilated eye exams, eye exams for diabetics, treatment of eye diseases, professional contact lens care, and LASIK consultation/post-operative care. In addition, the office offers computerized visual field testing and retinal photography. Dr. Swanson also works closely with the area's leading ophthalmic surgeons, specialists and physicians.

The optical department carries a wide selection of the newest frames from the industry's leading designers, and the office fits all major brands of contact lenses. "We strive to provide more individualized service than the retail optical store, and we are confident that patients will appreciate our commitment to quality care," Dr. Swanson said. Dr. Swanson participates with most insurance plans and offers evening and Saturday appointments. For more information, call (248) 427-9620 or visit www.eyefinity.com/swanson.

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Novi Theatres to present 'The Prince & the Pauper'

Identical twins from Walled Lake cast in play's lead roles

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

If there was ever a play made for identical twins, "The Prince & the Pauper" is it.

Novi Josh and Blake Gronlund, identical twins from Walled Lake, will have a chance to do perform together when the Novi Theatres presents this play adapted from the late author Mark Twain's classic story on the Novi Civic Center Stage.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. May 14 and 15 and at 3 p.m. May 16.

The story revolves around a strange phenomenon that occurs when two young boys from different backgrounds become friends. When commiserate Tom Canty and Prince Edward exchange clothes, they end up exchanging positions, too.

Nothing Canty says can convince the Court that he isn't their lawful prince and heir. And, poor Prince Edward finds life as a beggar boy pretty rough.

The boys have many difficulties until they manage to once more exchange their clothes and resume their original roles in life — each a better person for having lived for a little while in someone else's shoes.

Josh Gronlund plays the Prince, and Blake Gronlund plays the Pauper. This is the twins' second performance with the Novi Theatres. They first appeared in the recent musical South Pacific, according to Linda Wickert, artistic director.

Other actors playing lead roles, which means they have 30-plus lines, include Tim Markham of Novi as Miles Hendon; Devan Malone of Northville as Lady Olivia; Brianna Blossfeld of Novi as Lady Gwen; Krista Tice of Novi as Lady Jane; and Courtney Morelock of Novi as Old Biddy.

Supporting actors, who have 10 to 29 lines, include Sheena Shania of Novi as Hug; Matthew Thimom of Novi as Bumby; Sarah Leton of Novi as Mrs. Lather; Ally D'Annunzio, Brooke as Bet; Haley Parker of Novi as Sassy Girl; Max Shanker of Novi as Jailer; Jacob Blossfeld of Novi as Constable; and Nicole Kosinski of Novi as Mrs. Bentley.



Courtesy photo

Identical twins Josh and Blake Gronlund of Walled Lake play the lead roles in the upcoming performances of "The Prince & the Pauper" May 14-16 by the Novi Theatres. Josh plays the Prince, and Blake plays the Pauper. The children's play is about two boys from different backgrounds who exchange lives when they exchange clothes. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 starting at 5 p.m. May 14.

Other supporting roles include Abby Richard of Northville as Mrs. Hubbs; Joey Lippok of Novi as Thief #1; Zach Stecher of Northville as Thief #2; Sean Haggan-McDonald of Novi as Guard #1; and Brandon DuBois of Novi as Guard #2.

Ensemble roles, which means they have four to 10 lines, include Emma Walter as the Page and street talkers/court members Elicia Johnston, Alison McKinley, AnnaLisa Morgan, Miranda Smith, Kaley Bowles, Rachel Meuwissen and Ashley Skaglen of Novi.

Street vendors/serafid members include Alyssa Muller, Ashley Skaglen, Lesley Harrington and Lindsey Smith of Novi and Emily Isack of Northville.

Those who play prisoners in the play include Michael Cauci; Jarret Grismer; Hannah Shanker; Kaley Kennedy; Rylie Davis; Christopher Kennedy; Casey Haggan-McDonald; Stephanie Luthier; Ally D'Annunzio; Brooke as Bet; Haley Parker of Novi as Sassy Girl; Max Shanker of Novi as Jailer; Jacob Blossfeld of Novi as Constable; and Nicole Kosinski of Novi as Mrs. Bentley.

Laura Utter serves as director, with Alex Lepota as assistant director. Stephanie Bonmarino, a sophomore from Northville High

School, is the stage manager. John Verloove, lighting designer, and Katie Mouthel, set designer, are active in Wayne State University Theatres' productions.

Costumes were designed by Marilee DeCham and Alice Smith.

"The play was chosen by a script committee formed by a group of adult actors who showed a great interest in the Novi Theatres. I found it to be a lovely job and was glad to have the input," Wickert said.

"We are always looking for new children's plays that afford us the luxury of a large cast, and we always choose classics with a big name appeal. By now, many children are familiar with the movie," she said.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. At-the-door prices start at 5 p.m. on May 14. The Novi Civic Center Stage is located at 45175 West Ten Mile Road in Novi. For more information, call (248) 347-4000.

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

National Women's Health Week: Women's Health Series lectures at Providence

National Women's Health Week, May 9-15, is an effort to raise awareness about steps women can take to improve their health. As part of that observance and to encourage women to visit their health care professional for their annual exam, May 10 has been designated National Women's Check-up Day. Providence's Nurse Navigator is available at 800-806-2229 to answer questions about health screening guidelines for women or to help locate a health care provider.

Providence is sponsoring a series of lectures on topics related to women's health, beginning the Wednesday of Women's Health Week (May 9-15) and continuing every Wednesday of the month. The lectures will be held at Providence Park in Novi, Conference Room C, at 7 pm:

- May 5 - "Menopause: Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask," Judith Brysk, MD - Common symptoms, treatments, hormone replacement, alternative/complementary approaches.

- May 12 - "Nutrition for Women," Beverly Cameron, RD - What is a healthy diet for women; what vitamins and supplements are important and useful.

- May 19 - "Breast Cancer, Bernadine Sherwood, RN, OCN - Risk factors, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer; how to do a proper breast self-exam.

- May 26 - "Dealing with Leaky Bladders," Robert Dodds, MD - Causes, diagnosis and treatment of incontinence.

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

20A

Novi News

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Use these tips to sell your home at its best

If you're planning to sell your home, you'll want to make sure it's in tip-top shape. But you don't have to spend a bundle to make a great first impression on potential buyers. Consider these inexpensive tips from Home and Family Finance for putting your home's best face forward.

"Wow" buyers immediately

Buyers make a judgment about your property the minute they pull into the driveway. To entice them to look inside make sure the exterior of your home is clean and attractive.

Cut the lawn, trim shrubs and plant some colorful flowers. Wash down siding and brick and make sure your gutters are clean and free of debris. Refresh the look of old shutters and doors with a coat of paint. Hide garbage cans, yard rubbish and old garden hoses.

Removing detractors like these from your home will help pave the way to quick sale.

Make the place sparkle

A few hours spent cleaning and organizing will go a long way with potential buyers. Scrub floors, wash baseboards and clean windows so they sparkle. Shampoo dirty carpets, clean bathtubs, replace unsightly caulking and make sure to fix dripping faucets and oil squeaky doors. Is your oven clean? Some prospective buyers may judge the overall cleanliness of your home by how clean you keep your oven. Consider applying a fresh, neutral coat of paint to tired walls.

Create the illusion of space

If prospective buyers have to perform gymnastic moves to avoid running into extra furniture and boxes, you may have to wait a while before you sell your house. Consider storing items temporarily at a friend's house, or rent a storage unit. Organize junk depositories like closets, basements and attics. To create the illusion of space, don't cram a lot of furniture into a small room and de-clutter as much as possible.

Bric-a-brac and too many personal items are also detractors. From the minute prospective buyers walk into your home, you want them to be able to imagine themselves living comfortably in the house surrounded by their belongings and keepsakes.

Consider a pro

If you want top dollar for your dwelling you might consider hiring a redesign specialist, also known as a home stager, to maximize your property's appeal. Home stagers' services include everything from coming in and making over a home — putting in new countertops, applying fresh paint, replacing older furniture with modern new pieces — to walking through the home and making suggestions for improvements. Their costs can range from a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars depending on the level of change you're looking to effect. To locate a home stager in your area, visit the international Interior Redesign Industry Specialists' Web site at www.weredesign.com.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League, a statewide trade association for Michigan credit unions. Send financial questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or stop by our Web site (www.mcul.org) to learn more about smart money management. Comments about this column may be e-mailed to mcd@mcul.org.

Story idea?

Do you have a news brief or story idea about your company?

Send it to:

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Advertorial



Submitted photo

Do you want beautiful flower gardens but don't have the time or know how? Jodi Slankard, owner of "Everything Grows" in South Lyon will take care of everything from design to fall cleanup.

With help, Everything Grows

Imagine flowerbeds that bloom from spring until fall! Imagine bouquets of your own fresh cut roses, peonies, lilies and lilies gracing your home!

If you don't have the time or talent for gardening, you can still enjoy the beauty of a blooming garden, says Jodi Slankard. You don't need a green thumb. You don't need to lift a finger. Just give Jodi a call at "Everything Grows."

She knows there are a lot of people that love flower gardens but simply don't have the time to plan or plant. It's her goal to make your yard as pretty as a picture.

"My specialty is flower gardens," she said, "and I prefer to use powerful combinations of perennials, annuals and bulbs to provide a dramatic effect throughout the seasons."

Jodi Slankard, owner of "Everything Grows" in South

Lyon will take care of everything from design to fall cleanup. Or you may choose the services where you need help, including design, installation and maintenance. Just sit back, relax and let her do the work, so you can enjoy beautiful outdoor spaces filled with vibrant colors and memorable fragrances.

"Jodi's expertise in planning ensures that you'll get the desired results for your garden. How does this happen? First, she'll sit down with you to find out your likes and dislikes in plants and colors. Then she'll consider color schemes, such as a monochromatic (shades of the same color family) or polychromatic theme (opposite sides of the color wheel). One of her favorite combinations includes yellow and blue. Most importantly, she considers the location of the garden: sun versus shade.

"The location of your garden is the most important factor. Most plants need six hours of sun," said Jodi. Shade gardens are more difficult to plan, with fewer options for the selection of plants that bloom. However, shade gardens can be beautiful. One thing that distinguishes her gardening work is her use of annuals to accent the perennials and provide all season color. "I like to mix them with perennials and bulbs so there's always something blooming," she explained. Jodi also prefers to edge her gardens with sweet alyssum, which gives a prettier look than rubber tubing or plastic fencing.

Having colorful blooms through all seasons is a signature of her work. She views flower gardens as a constantly evolving work of art, with new shapes and colors as it matures. "Your garden is like a watercolor painting, only outdoors."

Customers will find that she's flexible; they can pick and choose from her array of services. She understands that many clients prefer to do some of the

gardening tasks, such as planting or maintenance. She's also happy to work with any size garden or budget.

"Some people want immediate results so we use larger plant sizes. Or I can use smaller plants to help them stay within their budget. I'll tell them what they can expect," said Jodi.

She considers trust one of the most important elements with her customers. Reputation is crucial in her line of business, she says simply, "I do what I say and I'll do it when you want it done." Even though you may enjoy gardening, Jodi's background as a master gardener can give invaluable input on selections of plants that will thrive in your garden location. A garden designed by a professional also looks more planned instead of just a haphazard design.

"If there's a lot of colors and all kinds of textures it can be chaos," she pointed out.

Along with a bubbly sense of humor and love of flowers, you might say she has a passion for roses. The South Lyon area resi-



Jodi Slankard will make your home more beautiful with blooms of color through the seasons.

dent actually comes from a family of "rosarians," including her mother, grandmother and great aunt.

"I love growing roses in Michigan, and they're not as tricky as you think, although they are heavy feeders and need lots of water," said Jodi. "They're one of the few plants that bloom in most cases from June until November." She enjoys cut roses in her home throughout the season. This season, she's planted 12 new bushes in her yard, thanks to gifts from her husband and mother.

Jodi is proud of the background and training she received as a Michigan master gardener. This also includes donating her time as a volunteer in the community including teaching classes, working with Girl Scouts and planting and caring for the memorial garden at the South Lyon United Methodist Church.

Jodi shares the Irish blessing for gardens that her grandmother passed to her mother and to her: "The kiss of the sun for pardon.

The song of the birds for mirth.

One is nearer God's heart in a garden

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"Your garden is like a watercolor painting, only outdoors," says Jodi Slankard, owner of Everything Grows.

TIPS FROM JODI SLANKARD OF EVERYTHING GROWS

■ The biggest obstacle we face in Michigan is an irregular rainfall. Most gardens need at least an inch of water a week. Hanging baskets dry out quickly and can need watering once, sometimes twice a day on a hot or windy day, she added.

■ West and south facing beds also need extra attention with water.

■ Fertilizing is key to bigger blooms. If in doubt, add a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) to your beds in the spring per instructions. Everything Grows uses Osmocote a slow-release fertilizer that lasts a few months.

■ Plants that do well in full shade: hosta, bleeding hearts, foxglove and astilbe.

■ Starting with a good base is the most important step in planning a new bed or refurbishing an existing bed. This time of year she hauls a lot of peat, compost and manure.

■ Take heart if you're a novice or experienced gardener. It's like a constantly evolving science project. You have to be flexible with gardening and try different varieties and species until you get the right combination for your site. And every year you should add a new variety.

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Mixed results for Novi

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The good, the bad and the ugly? Nah, it was more like the win, the loss and the in-between.

The Novi Wildcats tennis team, which is coached by Jim Hanson, took a win, a loss and a tie against Lakeland, Brighton and the very competitive Ann Arbor Greenhills, respectively.

Against Lakeland, the Wildcats pounded out an 8-0 victory over their conference foes.

"I thought Lakeland's singles players were very competitive," Hanson said. "They made the kids work for their points. Those were good wins for us in all four flights."

At one singles, Suraj Ramchandran went 6-0, 6-3 over Lakeland's Bill Lloyd while Roshan Ramchandran took a 6-2, 6-1 win over Collin McNut at two singles.

The third singles flight found Lakeland's Artem Ermelianov falling to Kyle Goodman, 6-2, 6-1, while Justin Namin pounded out a convincing 6-1, 6-1 victory over Chris Johnson to sweep the singles flights.

The doubles found the Wildcats earning even more convincing wins. The duo of Drew Doster and James Peurach made short work of Dan Kessler and Erik Morscheid, 6-0, 6-0, in the first flight. Two doubles was much of the same as Kevin Lai and Eric McQueen earned a 6-0, 6-1 win over Kyle Miller and Pat Okar.

Richie Fetters and Jeff Korby were more than happy to do their part at three doubles as they topped Drew Wagner and Cameron Houghtaling, 6-0, 6-0. Fellow Wildcats Ryan Heffernan and Solomon Zheng earned a 6-1, 6-0 win over David Beattie and Scott Robinson at fourth doubles as well.

In some exhibition play, Lei Bei, a senior, beat Bill Woodard in one game, 8-1.

"Our depth has always been a strength of ours," Hanson said. "I think Lakeland is headed in the right direction. This win wasn't as easy as it looks on paper."

Against Brighton, the winning was even harder. The Wildcats put up a 5-3 loss against their biggest rivals in the state and will have to look to the conference match to get it back.

"We played well and so did Brighton," Hanson said. "This one always comes down to one or two matches. This time, Brighton earned it."

Novi lost in the second and third singles flights as well as in the first, second and fourth doubles flights. Two of the losses came via three-set matches.

At first singles, Suraj Ramchandran earned a big 6-3, 6-2 win over Jeff Lisiecki while Goodman scraped out a 6-1, 6-0 win over Chris Walker at fourth singles.

The only doubles victory came from Fetters and Korby, who have been playing some convincing tennis at third doubles. The duo beat Alex Shikany and Jon Walker, 6-2, 6-4.

Against Ann Arbor Greenhills — which is ranked at the top spot in Division IV — it seemed both teams played to their best potential as they came away with a 4-1 tie.

The victors for the Wildcats weren't always clear cut and neither were Greenhills'. Out of the eight matches played, four came down to three sets and two had to have tiebreakers.

Roshan Ramchandran earned a victory at three singles as he defeated senior Stephen Chang, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4. Goodman was just as impressive, beating senior Aaron Dayton in three sets, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-3 to take fourth singles.

In three doubles, Fetters and Korby were once again golden. They beat Jake Izenberg and Zach Froelich, 6-2, 6-3, while Heffernan and Namin combined talents at fourth doubles to beat Spencer Armour and Daniel Beef, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.

SPORTS

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, May 6, 2004

WILDCAT DOMINATION

Soccer right on target to conquer Kensington Valley

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Just what are Novi's intentions in the Kensington Valley Conference this year? It seems the soccer team has full intentions of being one of the most dominating teams ever to play in the league.

If that's the case, then they're on the right track.

Novi outscored their last four Kensington Valley Conference opponents, 32-1, to help keep their record unblemished in league play. The Wildcats, who are coached by Brian O'Leary, pounded out a win over Milford, 10-0, after beating Brighton, 5-0. The squad also topped Hartland, 9-0, and pounded South Lyon, 8-1.

Against the Mavericks of Milford, the Wildcats looked like a team bent on domination. After scoring triple goals in the first three minutes of the contest, the final outcome was crystal clear for the Novi squad.

"We scored three goals in the first three minutes of the game and never looked back," O'Leary said.

Stephanie Crawford was stellar, scoring four goals and two assists on the night while Moe Pawlak scored one goal and added three assists. Junior Chelsea Atiyeh had two goals while Colene Brockman, Kellie Walker and Lauren Troher had a single goal each.

Earning assists in the victory were Kelly Hebert, Brockman, Troher and Sarah Schmitt.

Between the posts was none other than the always-solid Amanda Church, who earned the shutout in the victory over the Mavericks.

The victory brought Novi's record to 8-1 overall and 4-0 in the Kensington Valley Conference. The squad is currently ranked third in the state by the coaches' association.

It basically seemed like a week where Novi could do no wrong — and it always helps when you can notched a shutout victory over your bitter rivals.

The Wildcats slipped just the Brighton Bulldogs, 5-0, in conference play last week. The squad jumped to the lead after scoring near-identical goals about five minutes apart in the first half.

The first was a cross from the corner that came off the foot of Kristi Timar to Atiyeh.

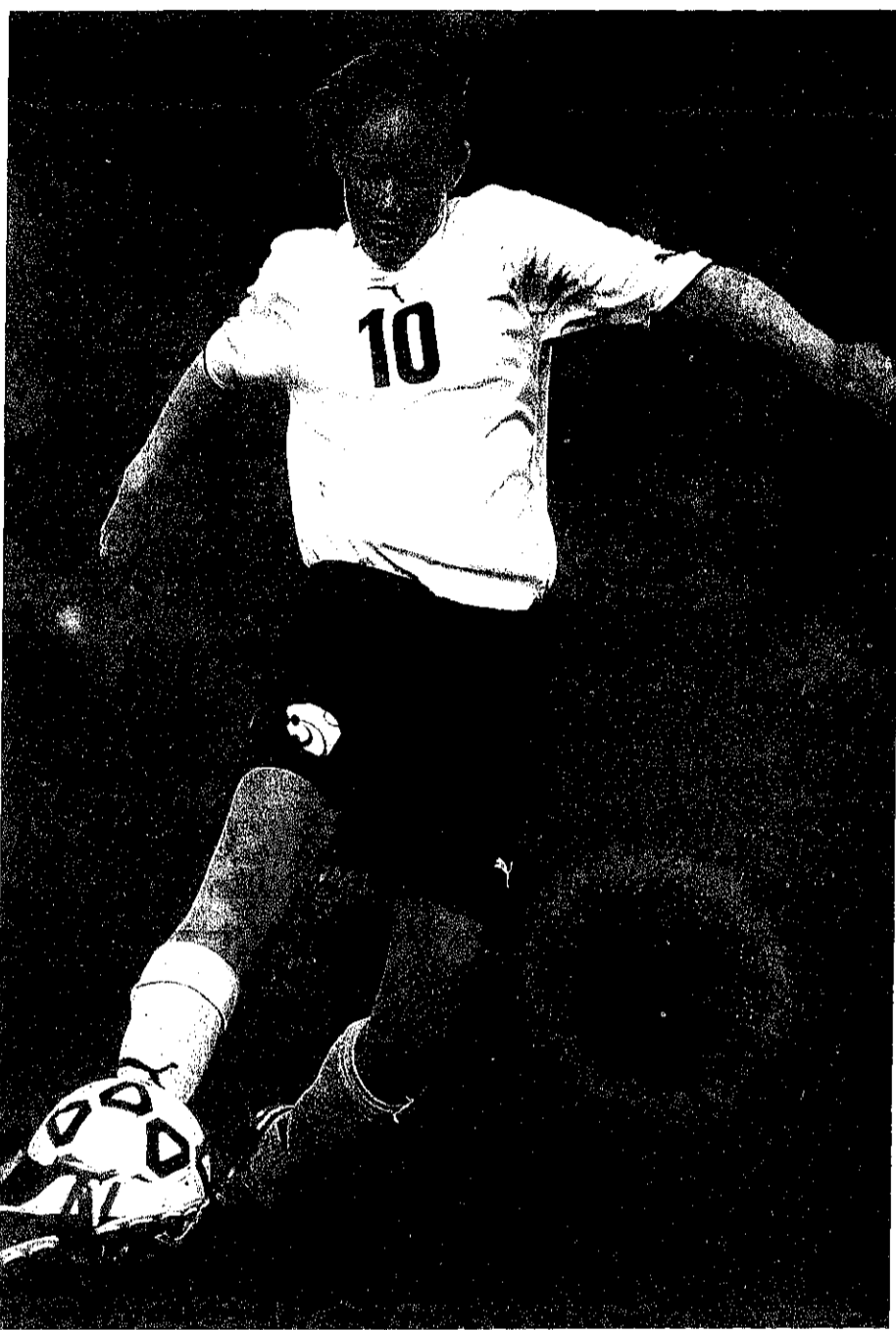


Photo by John Heider

Continued on B2 Novi's Kellie Walker tries to get foot on the ball during a home game against Hartland.

'Cats prove competitive with Brighton

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Taking on the Brighton Bulldogs is never an easy chore — but the Novi Wildcats girls track and field team seemed up to the task.

Though they lost to their rivals, 88-49, the Wildcats were all the better for giving their all in the showing and taking away invaluable experience in trade.

"We showed that we, as a team, are committed to working to improve our program," Novi coach Marsha Reid said. "The girls are showing great progress and really continue to give 100-percent at all times."

The biggest highlight of the

most came in the pole vault as the Wildcats swept the Bulldogs. Jenn Mehl, a senior, went 10-feet to help beat Brighton while Margeaux Reizian cleared 7-6 for second place. Taking third and securing the clean sweep of the event was Christina Thompson, who went 7-0.

The other field events proved to be strong for the Novi Wildcats as well. Bella Feldbaum went 15-1.75 in the long jump to secure a victory in the highly-competitive event while Thompson took third with a leap of 13-10.75.

In the high jump — and with no surprise here — Christina Lis took first with a jump of 4-11 for first place while Mehl cleared 4-9 for third place.

"I am really proud of them and their efforts this year," Reid said of her entire squad.

The throwing events were as competitive as ever, but Novi's Laura Vandersteen made some noise with a throw of 28-feet in the shot put for second place while securing a second-place finish in the discus with a hurl of 79-9.

"Our throwers continue to improve and are showing it with a great dual performance from Laura Vandersteen in the shot put and discus with two second places in those events," Reid said. "Jen Rowe also did a nice job of getting us points in the discus with a (personal-best) throw."

Rowe took third in the discus with a throw of 78-8 to secure

third place.

The only Novi victory in the races came from Emily Reid in the 110-meter high hurdles. Reid ran to victory with a time of 17.20 seconds to secure the win.

"Emily Reid proved her strength in the hurdles as one of the better hurdlers in the KVC by winning the 110," Reid said. "She also placed second in the 300 hurdles."

In the 300 hurdles, Reid put up a time of 53.34 seconds for the second-place finish.

Allie Sisson isn't afraid to show she's vying for one of the top spots in the conference in her favorite event — the 400-meter dash. Sisson took second place with a time of 1:04.

Also taking a second was Feldbaum in the 100-meter dash. The senior ran a 13.46-second race to secure the second spot.

Andrea Kramer was probably the biggest personal success story for the Wildcats. She put up three personal-best times in the 800, 1600 and 3200-meter runs. In the 1600, Kruter took second place with a time of 5:46.9 while taking a time of 12:39 in the two-mile run for second place.

"Patti Ramos continued to show she is a great asset in the distance with a third-place finish in the 3200 meter run," Reid noted of the senior captain's time of 12:42.

Novi also took second in the 4-by-100 relay, the 4-by-800 and the 4-by-200.

Trent Sisson
Senior
Track and Field

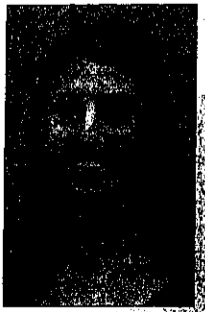
It isn't every day that a school gets an athlete like Sisson. Not only is he a future collegiate football player, but Sisson was one of the area's best hockey goalies during his junior year. He is also a top track athlete. His specialty is the 400-meter.



Athletes OF THE Week

Jenn Mehl
Senior
Track and Field

One thing's for certain, Mehl isn't afraid of competition. Last week this strong athlete pounded out a win against Brighton, one of the Kensington Valley Conference's toughest teams. Mehl took first in the pole-vault, clearing the 10-foot mark. Not bad. Not bad at all.



If your business would like to sponsor our Athletes of the Week, please contact Lisa Tincu, advertising executive, at (248) 349-1700 or by e-mail at ltincu@ht.homecomm.net.

'Cats crush rivals

Continued from B1

who headed the ball into the net for the score. The second was a cross from Hebert to Pawlak, who also used her head for the quick score and the 2-0 lead.



Photo by John Heider

Wildcat Chelsea Atiyeh (#7) tries to get a handle on the ball deep in the Hartland end during a home game.

A 4-0 lead and time expiring was the situation the Wildcats were hoping to have when the game began, but the squad added an insurance goal just to be on the safe side. With three minutes left in the contest, Pawlak scored on a nice stop pass from Timar for the 5-0 final.

Soccer team dominates Kensington Valley foes

The Novi Wildcats soccer team, coached by Brian O'Leary, is making domination a household word this year and they've put an exclamation mark on it with some big wins over their conference foes this year. In two recent games, the 'Cats pummeled Hartland, 9-0, and trampled a tough South Lyon team, 8-1.

When the weather gets tough, some teams have to get going. The Novi Wildcats were more than happy to host another Novi Invitational Tournament this past Saturday, but they weren't so happy when Mother Nature decided to rain on their parade -- or, their tourney.

Rain, rain, please go away

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

When the weather gets tough, some teams have to get going. The Novi Wildcats were more than happy to host another Novi Invitational Tournament this past Saturday, but they weren't so happy when Mother Nature decided to rain on their parade -- or, their tourney. "We didn't get started until about 10 a.m. because we had to roll the courts due to rain," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "We were about two-thirds finished with the tournament and didn't have a number of matches completed when it started to rain hard and didn't stop for about a day."

Sports Shorts

Summer Basketball Camps All of the basketball camps are directed by Novi High School Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Pat Schuler. Schuler was Coach of the Year 2003-2004, and is also a Physical Education Teacher at Novi Meadows School. Camps will be held at the Novi Middle School gym unless noted.

Wildcats top Brighton on links

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

At this point in the season, getting the weather to cooperate is a chore in itself. With rain -- and sometimes even snow -- to contend with, coupled with unseasonably cool temperatures, a 60-degree day at the end of April is sure a treat. And the Novi Wildcats girls' golf team took advantage of every bit of it.

"The team is truly a team. Different players step up at each meet. They are winning as a team and all contributing."

Deb Harris
Novi Golf Coach



HUGH JACKMAN, KATE BECKINSALE
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Underclassman Scores

Freshman Softball
Overall Record: 7-1-1

The Novi freshman softball team continued its winning ways last week with a resounding double-header sweep over Milford, 6-0 and 2-3, in the first game. Rachel Harris earned the shutout and struck out 17 batters. Top hitters were Kelly Hogan with six hits, and Rachel Harris and Amanda Diacomo with four hits each. Julie Schramm, Amy Belski, and Emily Hijz added three hits each, and Chare DePoter chipped in with two.

Junior Varsity Lacrosse
In an attempt at their second straight win the Novi junior vars-

ity lacrosse team fell short against the Huron Valley Unified Team Friday night. At the end of the first quarter the Unified team led 2-0. Novi came into the second quarter fighting with Nick Zarzora scoring Novi's only goal of the game off a pass from Jason Dulack. Despite a determined Novi offense led by Kyle Pawlocki, Robert Napier, Derek Lynch and Nick Mason battling the Unified defense proved too much for Novi's more than 20 shots on goal. The Unified team fought back with two more goals in the second half to end the game with a 4-1 win. The Wildcats will take their team to Troy on Wednesday May 5 at 5 p.m. and will be back home May 8 at 11 a.m. at Meadows Stadium.

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Novi takes two losses

It wasn't the week the Novi Wildcats softball team was really hoping to have, but it gave them plenty to look at in ways of improvement and strengths. The Wildcats, coached by Kevin Sutherland, fell to two of the top teams in the Kensington Valley Conference, South Lyon and Brighton. The Lions took advantage of the learning curve the Wildcats are experiencing right now and carried a 6-0 win over them.

Sports Shorts

Summer Basketball Camps All of the basketball camps are directed by Novi High School Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Pat Schuler. Schuler was Coach of the Year 2003-2004, and is also a Physical Education Teacher at Novi Meadows School. Camps will be held at the Novi Middle School gym unless noted.

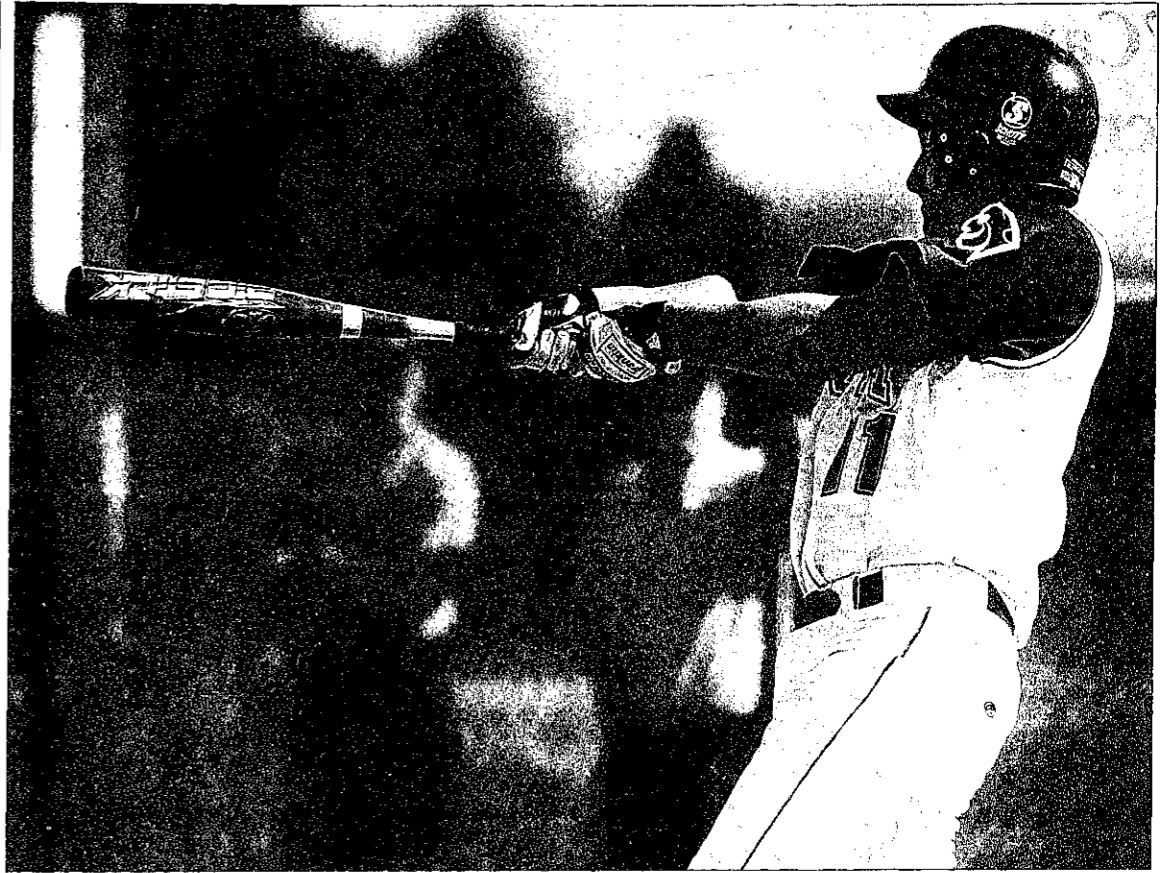


Photo by John Heider

Wildcat Steve Gawronski takes a cut in a late-April game at Ford Field in Livonia.

Wildcats still undefeated in KVC

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Geez, these guys get one little loss and they take it right to heart. The Novi Wildcats baseball team took a loss two weeks ago and haven't bothered to look back since they've climbed onto the winning freight train of domination and crushed every team in their path since.

with three RBIs while Benton cranked out two doubles on his way to a perfect 3-for-3 at the plate.

Senior hurler Danny Morrison took the victory on the mound. He earned the win while throwing a variety of pitches as well as having complete control over his abilities. "Danny could have probably beat anybody that day," Green said. "I think he was throwing a split finger or a knuckle ball. He has added another dimension to his game though. It was one of his best games."

The Hartland Eagles weren't too much of a challenge for the Wildcats despite their KVC foe being ranked in the top-10 in the state earlier this year. Novi put up a 15-4 score against one of the few teams in the conference predicted to stand in their way of a 15th straight title.

Seven errors didn't keep the Eagles at all as Kevin Ciske, a jun-

ior, pounded out three hits and batted in three RBIs. Zach Flavin had two doubles and three RBIs as well.

On the mound was Billy Morrison, who whiffed eight batters to help keep his squad perfect in the conference. With so many seniors on the team, taking a commanding lead can sometimes lead to the players going out of focus.

"When we get a big lead, I want us to put the teams away," Green said. "The teams in the KVC just don't give up. We were up 5-0 on Hartland and the next thing you know it's 5-3. If you

don't put these teams away, they might come back on you. Most of the teams in the KVC are pretty scrappy."

Though the game was rained delayed for nearly a week with a 4-0 advantage in favor of the 'Cats on the scoreboard, Novi made sure not to let the rescheduled game cramp their style as they went on to beat their Kensington Valley Conference rivals, 12-1.

Though the Wildcats have a firm grasp on the conference right now, they can't let up no matter who they play.

"All the teams are going to come after us," Green noted. "They know we're the big team right now. Even if they can't beat us in the league, they're still going to try to beat us to prove they were one of our toughest games and a tough challenge."



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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

4B

Novi News

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Signs, signs not enough signs

"Not open for business. Go away."

No responsible small-business owner would dare post such a sign on the front door of his or her shop. After all, the key to being a successful entrepreneur is attracting customers.

But more than two-thirds of American small-business owners are, in effect, turning customers away because they fail to take advantage of the technological revolution.

According to the International Data Corporation (IDC), more than two-thirds (67 percent) of the nation's small firms don't have Web sites, so the

increasingly techno-savvy customers of today have no idea these firms exist. That's startling in the Internet age, especially considering that the IDC survey shows 41 percent of firms that launched a Web site reported higher sales.

IDC says the main reason cited by small-business owners for not creating a Web site is a lack of money to hire information-technology workers and to buy the necessary equipment. Tight budgets are a way of life for these firms, which employ more than 99 percent of the nation's workers. Their slim profit margins and other operating efficiencies leave little available capital for such activities.

As the U.S. economy begins to gain traction on the road to recovery, it is imperative that both the federal government and the information-technology industry lend a helping hand.

One step Congress could take is to make permanent a tax provision that allows small firms to expense \$100,000 of new equipment purchases per year. This temporary measure was passed in recognition of the vital benefits small business provides to the American economic infrastructure, but the provision is set to expire at year's end.

Simultaneously, the information-technology industry should work to educate small businesses about ways to take advantage of available technologies. More capital for purchases would be a boon, but without the knowledge to apply technology to their benefit, owners will continue to miss key opportunities.

To their credit, some leading firms in the technology sector have reached out to small business with innovative educational programs. Last summer, Dell unveiled an 18-wheel mobile "classroom" loaded with technology solutions for small businesses. The company's "Total Business Tour" brought not only the latest technology, but also experts to assist entrepreneurs in their own communities. But the task of bringing millions of small firms up to speed is massive and time-consuming.

Lawmakers and technology experts have an obligation to play a key role in encouraging programs and policies that will ignite greater innovation and growth by the nation's Main Street firms. Entrepreneurs should be unshaken in their efforts to do what they do best: grow, create new jobs and provide meaningful livelihoods for themselves, their families and their employees.

One certain way to spur the success of those millions of small firms is to aid them in erecting more signs that read "Open for Business. Please come in." on the electronic highways and Main Streets of the World Wide Web.

Jack Faris is president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals.

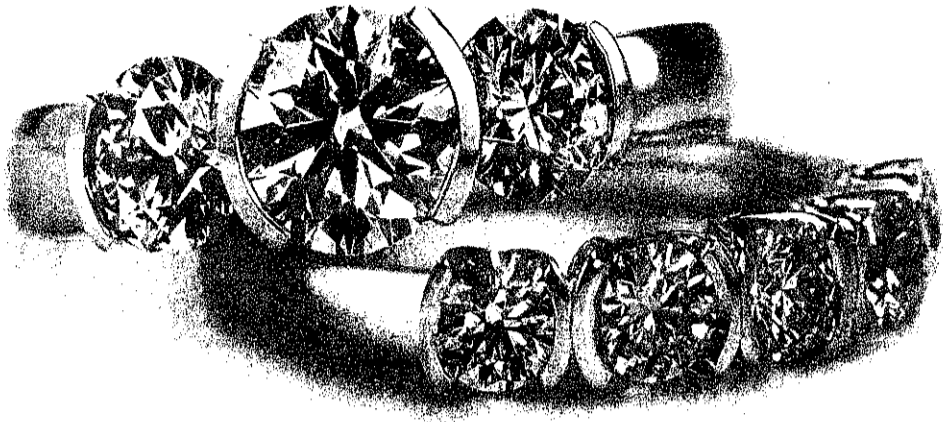
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Advertorial



Submitted photo

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Rotterdam is proud to be selected as a Hearts on Fire distributor as only select jewelers throughout the nation meet the stringent standards to become a Hearts on Fire jeweler. Hearts on

Fire diamonds are sold as loose stones or as finished jewelry.

"This great new line continues to keep us on top in the jewelry industry," Rotterdam said. "We are on the leading edge in Southeast Michigan," he added. "We are marketing stones that are branded... a brand that is on a diamond. That is phenomenal!" Rotterdam explained.

Hearts on Fire diamonds are cut from the finest rough diamonds available. Less than one percent of all gem-quality diamonds are chosen to become a hearts on Fire diamond. A master diamond cutter then takes four times longer to create the special Hearts on Fire diamond in order to reveal the inner beauty from within. It is cut to the most intricate and exacting standards in the world.

After the cutting is completed,

the Hearts on Fire diamond reflects 98 percent of the available light from the diamond to one's eyes, lighting up the "fire" of all the colors in the spectrum. Each Hearts on Fire diamond has a visual appearance that makes them appear larger than other diamonds of the same size.

Cut, color, clarity and carat weight - the four Cs - determine the beauty and value of a diamond. But it is the cut which has the most impact on the diamond's ability to reflect and disperse light. That means the cut of the diamond will determine how brightly a diamond will sparkle and shine.

How did the Hearts on Fire diamonds receive their name? When they are viewed upside down under a small ProportionScope, the diamonds will reveal a pattern of eight

symmetrical hearts. When one views the diamonds from above, one will see a symmetrical fire-burst phenomenon.

"Only diamonds cut to the stringent and precise Hearts on Fire standards will reveal such definitive and crisp patterns," Rotterdam explained.

"Every Hearts on Fire diamond meets or exceeds the requirements for the top cut grade in polish, proportion and symmetry from the American Gem Society's grading lab, making it the most perfectly cut diamond in the world," he added.

Hearts on Fire also features a "Dream" diamond, according to Rotterdam. Its design is so special that it has a patent pending. The square design permits the Dream diamond to reflect light in a way that no other square diamond can.

Fire, brilliance and scintillation characterize the square Dream diamond which is polished to precision.

"Dream is the only square diamond cut to maximize all the classic elements of diamond beauty - brilliance, dispersion and scintillation," Rotterdam said.

The creation of Dream took over two years and 30 different models to bring to perfection, he added.

Today, only 42 diamond cutters in the world have the needed skills to cut Dream diamonds, and each Dream takes over four times as long to produce than ordinary diamonds.

"Most people only dream of owning one. Then too, when Hearts of Fire artists presented their idea of the square diamond with its perfect symmetry and polish to the top gemological laboratories in the world, most cutters said, 'You have got to be dreaming,'" Rotterdam related.

Hearts on Fire also went on to create a companion piece - a perfectly cut round Dream diamond.

"Dream is truly a standard of excellence, and we are honored and proud to be carrying Dreams and Hearts on Fire diamonds. Dream is more than a diamond... it is a work of art," Rotterdam concluded.



Photo by HAL GOULD

Rotterdam Jewelers, which is a distributor for Hearts of Fire and Dream diamonds, offers the best in cut, color, clarity and carat weights. Visit their stores in Milford and Brighton.

HEARTS ON FIRE

To ensure the authenticity of each Hearts on Fire diamond, each one is inscribed with a registered number on the girdle.

In addition, the buyer will receive a certificate from an independent gemological laboratory, stating that the diamond meets the highest, most rigorous standards in the world. The Hearts on Fire diamond can also be microscopically inscribed with a personal inscription such as a wedding date.

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The art of picture hanging

The look of a room hinges on placement

By Rose Bennett Gilbert
 COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: We have a lot of watercolors and prints inherited from various relatives. I need some hints on how to work them into our rooms, over tables and beds. There's no space to hang a big wall of art, so they'll have to go in groupings of two, three or four.

A: The basic guidelines for successful picture hanging have to do with proportion and balance. As a rule, you want to add vertical movement to your rooms, so think of hanging things up, rather than across, the walls. However, if you have just one sizable painting, it should go at eye level, about 5 1/2 feet from the floor. When you hang art over a table or chest, the bottom of the frame should be 8 inches to 12 inches above the furniture.

In the large traditional bedroom in this photo, designer Lori Lennon, ASID, has used three very different picture groupings that show how to arrange multiple artworks.

1. Avoid hanging two pictures the exact same size together. Better to include a third piece. Look closely at the far wall and you'll see two like pictures, hung one above the other, with a smaller sunburst to relieve the arrangement. On the other side of the window, notice how the lampshade works into the arrangement of three pictures.

2. If you have two pictures of different sizes, put the larger one on top. Three pictures of equal size can be hung side by side.

3. In a grouping, establish and maintain at least one straight line, vertical or horizontal. The eye craves some hint of order. In the five-over this bed head, the frames of the outside pictures



CNS PHOTO

With a new room, it's important to pre-plan your wall arrangements.

are aligned at top, bottom and in the middle of the grouping.

Q: Where do home design trends start?

A: Fashion ideas blow in from sometimes surprising directions, but one sure source is High Point, N.C., the little town that calls itself The Furniture Capital of the World. And with good reason: Every spring and fall, some 80,000 designers, manufacturers, furniture retailers and journalists pour into High Point for the largest wholesale home furnishings events in the entire world. They come to see what's new and exciting for homes all over the globe. Some highlights from the spring 2004 market:

■ **More domesticated celebrities:** Anyone who is a name is lending theirs to chairs, sofas and such. Liz Claiborne licensed a collection for Lexington Home Brands that's as conservative as the company's fashion apparel.

■ **Charlie's ex-Angel Jaelyn Smith** (see her in "The District"

on CBS) put her touch on eight new categories of home products, including wallpapers and fabrics, lamps, area rugs and table linens.

Presumed angels Andy Warhol and Ernest Hemingway are still making names for themselves in home design (for Sphinx rugs and Thomasville Furniture). Even Robin Leach risked becoming more rich and famous by showing up for LaMotte mirrors and frames.

■ **Uber-designers:** France's internationally renowned Jacques Garcia presented the ne plus ultra of refined classic design in an exquisite new collection for Baker Furniture. And Raymond Waites, the man who virtually invented the American Country look a quarter century ago, celebrated his 30th year in the industry by adding Imperial Russian to his already polyglot design vocabulary.

■ **Kitchen ideas:** Furnish your kitchen where you'd go to buy your sofa and chairs.

A sure sign that family living

spaces are morphing into today's kitchens, manufacturers such as Pennsylvania House (new Summer Retreat collection) and Stickley (new granite-topped oak or cherry island) are offering work island dividers to complement the style of your other home furnishings.

■ **Lighthearted lamps:** Designers are looking at floor and table lamps in a whole new and amusing way. Hanging fixtures are in the picture, too. For example, Arteriors of Dallas covered up shades in studded leather, pleated shades horizontally, wrapped them in embossed moose, and used linings of red silk to create a totally romantic glow.

Engelie dispenses with lamp bases altogether: They have it made in the shade, literally, with glowing fabric stretched over small and tall frames. Another innovator, Curcy & Company, wraps stings of crystals to aged brass chandeliers, and conjures branched, faux twig fixtures from cement.

Bulbs generally can bloom again

Q: I was given half a dozen pots of blooming bulbs between Christmas and Easter. I know that I'll get a few more for Mother's Day. Do I throw them out or wait until next fall or spring to plant them? Can I rebloom them in the house? Basically, is there life beyond this one blooming?

A: Round two is coming up. Most of your bulbs can do this again next spring if you handle them right. If there are green leaves on the bulbs, keep watering them to keep them going until they go out. If the plant has dried up, water the soil the day or so before the big journey. It makes them easier to get out of the pot. The time to plant the bulbs is now. If you wait until fall, they will have had months of no photosynthesis and no food storage.

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Home Grown

Gretchen Voyle



you have paper white narcissus, they are a "one bloom" item. They are too tender for Michigan winters. If you keep them in the house, they will grow lovely foliage and no flowers the next year. Don't try to rebloom these current bulbs in the house. Start over with new ones in the fall if you want to do this.

Q: Why do some garden magazines talk about adding manure or compost to a garden? Bag fertilizer has way more nutrients and is easier to apply. Plants can't tell the difference in nutrient sources.

A: Plants may not know the difference but the soil does. It's tied to those two itagic words, "organic matter" does several things. It adds small amounts of slow-release nutrients. It adds water-holding capabilities to sandy soils. It breaks up the compaction of clay soils by adding air spaces. It keeps those valuable worms, soil insects and microorganisms happy. When all these things come together, it creates plant health. Healthy plants produce more and are better able to resist or recover from insect or disease damage. It's also wonderful exercise as you shovel and till in your soil improvement goodies. Continue to add bag fertilizer but get a soil test to determine what's needed. That goes for lime especially. Good soil can go bad and bad soil can get worse with the misuse of these concentrated products.

Gretchen Voyle, MSU Extension-Livingston County horticulture agent, can be reached at (517) 546-3950.

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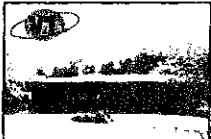
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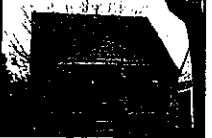
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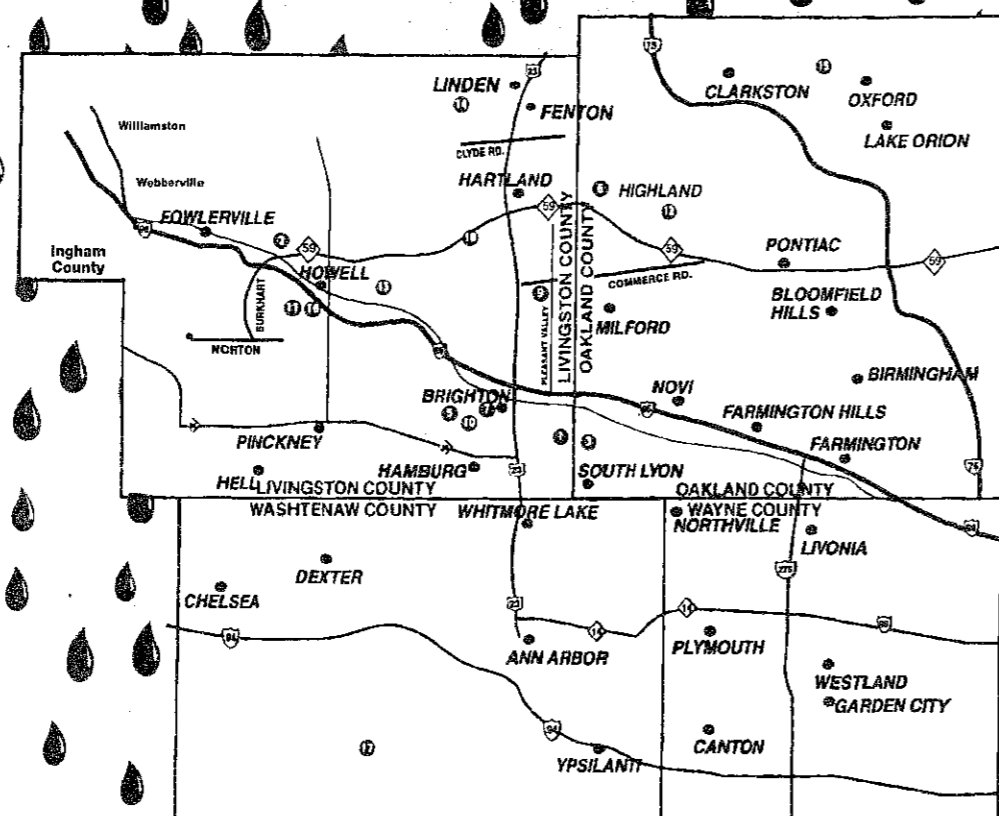
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