



REGIONAL MARKET



Your Nesting Place

As a designer, Chris Meredith refuses to be pigeonholed into a safe category, and has developed a faithful following who've discovered her fun and refreshing approach to design through her Millford shop.

— Page 6B

Budget still unresolved

Meeting adjourned until next evening

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

Tempers flared and words flew at the Novi City Council's special Emergency Crisis Meeting Tuesday night, when talks came to an abrupt standstill and members failed to adopt a 2004-2005 budget.

The meeting was adjourned after less than an hour and a half when Mayor Pro Tem David Landry's final motion did not pass with the required five votes, forcing Mayor Lou Csordas to reconvene the meeting at 7 p.m. May 26.

Landry, Csordas, Kim Capello and Bob Galt voted yes on the final motion to approve the budget. Toni Nagy, Laura Lorenzo and Lynn Paul voted no. Nagy and Lorenzo, however, voted no on the motion to adjourn, while the four men voted in favor of adjourning talks until Wednesday night. Paul left before that vote.

The mayor has the power to reconvene a meeting as long as city council members have at least 18 hours notice.

One Novi resident in the audience, Dawn Walstrom, suggested to city council that they consider resigning their positions if they could not come to an agreement on the budget.

"I am disheartened by the events that I see occurring in this room right now. You've been elected by

the members of the city to represent the city, and the animosity, personal issues and personal agendas have no place in this room," she said.

Mayor Pro Tem David Landry opened the meeting by saying that this is the first time in anyone's memory that the city council is not able to agree and pass a budget.

"Four are able to agree, but three are not, and we must have five votes," Landry said. "The city finds itself in a sad situation."

Mayor Lou Csordas became thoroughly frustrated after budget talks came to a standstill.

"There really has been too much talk of compromise and no consideration for the well-being of this city and the residents of the city. I think playing politics with the city budget is reckless and not good for the city and the residents. I think it's time for

"I think playing politics with the city budget is reckless and not good for the city and the residents. I think it's time for this city council to act as elected officials and get this budget approved."

Lou Csordas
 City of Novi mayor

this city council to act as elected officials and get this budget approved," Csordas said.

Discussion revolved around whether to add two or three administrative sergeants or have a full 16

dispatchers in the police department. Another stumbling block involved when to advertise for bids for legal services for the city — even

continued on page 5

SPORTS



Heading to state finals

The Novi Wildcats boys tennis team — including the #1 doubles team of James Peurach, left, and Drew Doster — earned a berth in the state finals, thanks to some impressive play in one of the toughest regionals in the state.

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OBITUARIES

MaryAnn Chapman, 81

Howard R. Rourke, 88

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MEMORIAL DAY

Resident honored with full military burial

Ceremonies held at Arlington

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

As the nation prepares to honor its fallen veterans Monday on Memorial Day, a former longtime Novi resident and his family received a special honor last month when the veteran received a full military burial April 16 at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

Lt. Col. Frederick J. Baker, United States Marine Corps, Retired, who served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, died Oct. 5, 2003.

"We contacted the military to see about having him buried at Arlington. Anyone who is retired from the military who has been cremated can be buried in Arlington National Cemetery," Juanita Baker said.

"He was in the Marines for more than 26 years. Anybody who knew Fred knew that he was a Marine until he died," she said. "This is something he always wanted, so we're glad we could do it."

Baker enlisted in the Marine Corps in March 1943. During World War II he served in a Marine Dive Bombing Squadron in the South Pacific and also during the liberation of the Philippine Islands.

After World War II he was discharged as a staff sergeant and began his college career at the Naval War College. Following college graduation, he returned to active duty as a second lieutenant due to the start of the Korean War. During the Korean War, Baker

For details and a map of Novi's Memorial Day parade, please turn to page 15A.

served with an infantry regiment in Korea. After the Korea War, he served at various duty stations in the U.S., Okinawa and Japan.

Baker was sent to Vietnam and assigned as Battalion Commander of a Truck Battalion supporting the infantry.

He was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for his service in Vietnam. After the Vietnam War, Baker was transferred to U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters and was assigned as Head Motor Transport Branch in the G-4 Section.

After serving three years in this position, Baker retired from active duty and moved his family from Alexandria, Va., to Novi.

Following his retirement from the military, the grocery store chain Kroger employed Baker as the maintenance superintendent for its fleet of trucks. In 1975 he began selling heavy-duty parts to trucking fleets until his retirement in 1993. In his remaining years, he enjoyed golfing and spending time with family and friends.

Baker is survived by his wife of more than 60 years Juanita, of Novi; his sons, Randall and Gary; daughters, Kim and Robin; and seven grandchildren.

Baker's ashes were laid to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium (Columbarium Court 5, Section LL, Stack 5, Niche 2).

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



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Growing children

Parkview Elementary School students recently helped to flesh out art teacher Jennifer Harvey's floral spring mural (rear) with potted plants and flowers and gardening implements. From left are first graders Mikayla Timson, Matthew Bernard, and Catiyn Kucera. The mural's theme is "We Help Children Grow."

Full-day kindergarten program making a profit in Novi

Proof is in the numbers

By Ramez Khuri
 STAFF WRITER

Competition, need, enhanced revenue and learning/research.

These are the words that Bob Schram, executive director of administrative services and Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent of instructional services for the Novi Community School District, used to explain how the district is actually making money by having full-day kindergarten.

But it can best be summed up in two simple words — it's free. Schram's one of the items on the district's hit list of budget cuts if two millage renewals and a new millage fail to pass voter scrutiny June 14.

NOVI KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT TREND

School Year	Kindergarten Sept. Count	First Grade Sept. Count
1998-1999	450	454
1999-2000	451	461
2000-2001	435	473
2001-2002	416	460
2002-2003	410	438
2003-2004	443	419

Source: Novi Schools

According to Davis, perception still seems to be that it's costing the district too much money to have full-day kindergarten. She pointed out that though it may cost some money, the district is actually generating more than it's costing, which means a profit is being made.

"We're generating additional dollars and, more importantly, we're getting more children enrolled in school. Hopefully, they're going to stay and go to first grade and second grade," Davis said.

Schram explained that statistics show that there were more stu-

dents enrolled in first grade than there were in kindergarten each year dating back to the 1998-99 school year. For example, the 1998-99 kindergarten class had 450 students in it. That same class had 461 students when it moved on to the first grade.

Is that because more families who have children in first grade are moving into Novi every year? No.

Why the increase?

Schram said that since the Novi Community School District didn't offer full-day kindergarten prior to this school year, parents were turning to private schools and daycare. Then, after a year, they would enter their kids in first grade at Novi Schools.

"This is what's clearly showing me that parents were keeping

their kids out because they went to the private sector just for full-day kindergarten, then they came back to us in the first grade," Schram said. "That's why we have many more students from the same class in the first grade the very next school year."

After kindergarten enrollment steadily declined for the most part over those years, administrators expected to have approximately 400 students enroll in kindergarten this school year, but they were pleasantly surprised when 443 students enrolled.

Schram said that that particular statistic alone shows that more parents are putting their kids in full-day kindergarten programs than ever before. The fact that the school board of education approved full-day kindergarten in

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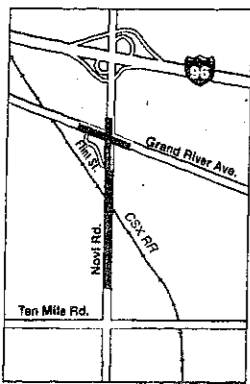
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ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Novi Road Improvements
 Intersection of Novi Road and Grand River. Widened and resurfaced. Project award expected in June 2004. Substantial completion expected in November 2004.
 Novi Road Improvements. Widened road to 5 lanes and construct bridge over CSX Railroad tracks. Goal to start project in 2006.
 Intersection of Novi and Ten Mile Road. Utility relocation and storm sewer construction and other work. Anticipation completion 2004.

Road construction meeting
 The City of Novi will sponsor a Road Construction Informational Meeting on all 2004 projects at two times — 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. — June 10 at the Novi Police Department Training Center, 45125 W. Ten Mile Road.
 Local business owners and members of the community are invited to attend this update where City of Novi staff will be available to share improvement status and schedules and answer questions and concerns.

Novi Road / Ten Mile Road
 The Road Commission for Oakland County is widening the intersection to five lanes in all directions and improving traffic signalization. Utility work associated with these improvements is scheduled to begin in late summer. Full project completion is anticipated by June 2005.

I-96 / Beck Road Interchange
 Construction of the new interchange began in November 2003 with new bridge abutments. Construction of the new I-96 ramps is scheduled to begin in May. Ramp work will require several road closures throughout the project duration, including:
 • Beginning in May, Twelve Mile Road will be closed for readjustment from Beck Road easterly to West Park Drive through July.
 • In July, Beck Road north of

Twelve Mile Road to just south of West Road will be closed for reconstruction through September. Motorists will be asked to follow the posted detour routes.
 Full completion of the new six-point urban interchange is scheduled for November 2005. The interchange will be the first of its kind in metro Detroit and will reduce land impacts to adjoining properties while maximizing traffic flow.

Meadowbrook Road
 Reconstruction of Meadowbrook Road from Twelve Mile Road south to Grand River Avenue is currently in the design process. Improvements will widen the roadway to a continuous three-lane section. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-summer 2004 and to be completed this year.

Taft Road
 Taft Road is being resurfaced from Ten Mile Road to Grand River Avenue.
 Construction is anticipated to begin in early summer and to be completed this year.

Novi Road / Grand River
 The Road Commission for Oakland County is reconstructing and widening the approaches to the intersection. Intersection will remain open, but two sections will be in place for the project's three phases. Detour routes will

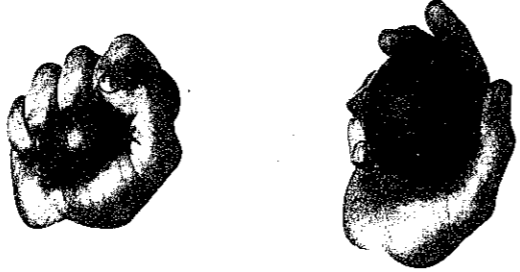
OVERVIEW

The 2000 Road Bond Program was initiated in the summer of 2000 to listen to residents and address Novi's major road network. The citizen-led campaign resulted in a 60-percent November voter approval for an \$18.395 bond issue. Benefits of the work include:
 • Improvements to nine major intersections to increase traffic capacity and address safety concerns.
 • Widen Novi Road between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue. The project is currently in design by the Road Commission for Oakland County.
 • Provide \$5.4 million over five years for additional neighborhood street repairs and resurfacing in subdivisions.
 • Construct a full I-96 interchange with I-96 in partnership with the State of Michigan.
 • Widen Grand River Avenue between Novi Road and Wixom Road.

include Crescent Boulevard and Main Street. Utility work is currently underway.
 Project is scheduled for completion in November.

Eight Mile / Haggerty / I-275
 The Wayne County Road Commission is reconstructing and widening Eight Mile Road, improving traffic signalization and reconfiguring expressway ramps. Construction began in April and includes:
 • The ramp to southbound I-275 from eastbound Eight Mile Road is closed. In addition, the northbound exit ramp from I-275 to Eight Mile Road is closed. Both closures will remain in effect through June.
 • In July, the northbound ramp from eastbound Eight Mile Road will be reconstructed. Project completion is scheduled for this fall.

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Unbuckled holiday motorists could face \$65 fine

The City of Novi Police Department is warning motorists to buckle up or be prepared to pay — up to \$65 — as they crack down on unbuckled motorists as part of the Memorial Day holiday period.
 "Michigan is striving to reach 90 percent safety belt use in 2004, and the City of Novi Police officers will be conducting safety belt enforcement this Memorial Day holiday period to help make that happen," said Sgt. Terry Whitfield.

Novi officers are joining more than 500 Michigan law enforcement agencies in a crackdown on unbuckled motorists as part of the national *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, May 24-June 6, 2004. Novi Officers will be working with area departments and the Traffic Improvement Association of Michigan to specifically have officers address

scatbelt violators during that time at various locations throughout the City of Novi.
 The state's mandatory safety belt law requires the driver and front seat passengers to be buckled up, and children under age 4 to be in an approved child safety seat. It also requires passengers up to and including age 15 to be buckled up, in front or rear seating positions. In addition, drivers or passengers who have a shout-

der harness placed under their arm or behind their back can be ticketed for failure to properly buckle up.
 According to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHS), up to 50 lives could be saved and 653 injuries prevented each year if the state's safety belt use rate increased from its current 85 percent to 90 percent.
 Studies have shown several

groups remain dangerously at risk, particularly young drivers who are over-represented in traffic crash data. The most recent OHS surveys show that young drivers (ages 16-29) have an 82-percent belt use rate and male motorists in general are lagging more than 10 percent behind women, buckling up only 79 percent of the time. Young men are buckling up only 75 percent of the time, making the group most likely to be in a crash even more likely to be seriously injured or killed when it happens.

"This campaign isn't about writing tickets, it's about saving lives. But our officers would rather pull out their ticket books than pull the body of an unbuckled motorist out of a fatal crash," said Sgt. Whitfield. "If you won't buckle up to save your life, then buckle up to save yourself a ticket."

COURT SENTENCINGS

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for May 10:
 • James Matthew Freeman — Larceny from a motor vehicle.
 • Jason Scott Colegrove — Larceny in a building.
 • Kiley Xavier Givens — Fourth degree criminal sexual conduct, sentence enhancement (fourth or subsequent offense).

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-2 District Court for May 10:
 • Jon Matthew Curran — Operating under the influence of alcohol/per se, third offense felony, driving while license suspended.
 • Jeffrey Glenn Mack — Uttering and publishing, sentence enhancement (fourth or subsequent offense).

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for May 13:
 • Terry Achariyalys Springfield — Armed robbery, home invasion, first degree, cons, unarmed robbery.
 • Justin Scott Dornbey — Delivery/manufacture marijuana.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for May 12:
 • Kevin Arthur Carrier — Fraud, by contractor, Larceny \$200 or more.
 • Sara France Watson — Operating under the influence of alcohol/per se (third offense felony).
 • Sheila Jackson — Possession controlled substance under 25 grams, retail fraud, sentence enhancement (third offense).
 • Nancy Marlen Farrell — Probation violation, operating under the influence of alcohol/per se (third offense felony), driving while license suspended (second or subsequent offense).

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for May 11:
 • Eric John Jamason — Larceny in a building.
 • Adam Joseph Burke — Breaking and entering vehicle, vehicle seizure, vehicle seizure, vehicle seizure property less than \$200 (3 counts), sentence enhancement (fourth or subsequent offense).
 • Anthony Christopher MacCarino — Larceny in a building.

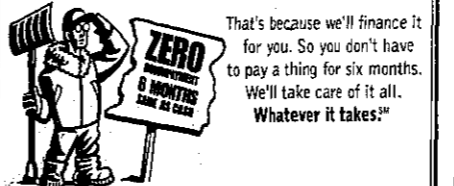
NOVI COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BID ADVERTISEMENT

Novi Community Schools will receive sealed bid proposals until 10:00 a.m. on May 27, 2004, for the following bid packages: "Academics Classroom at Novi High School." Bidding documents may be obtained after May 20, 2004 from Nova Environmental, Inc., 5340 Plymouth Rd., Suite 210 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106 Tel: 734.990.0995 and at the pre-bid examination. A mandatory pre-bid examination of the building will be held at 2:30 p.m. on May 20, 2004 at Novi High School, 24062 Taft Road, Novi, 48375. Meet at the Skanska field office, Novi Community Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.
 (S-2002/27-04 NN 134746)

THE NOVI NEWS
 Published Each Thursday
 By The Novi News
 104 W. Main Street
 Northville, Michigan 48167
 Periodical
 At Northville, Michigan

Subscription Rates:
 Metro Counties \$28 one year home delivery, \$25 one year mail delivery, \$50 per year. Outside Counties (in Michigan) are \$40 per year, prepaid. Out of state, \$50 per year.
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Grant will help train Walled Lake citizens

Walled Lake Fire Chief Ken Van Sparrentak announced that grants for \$25,000 from the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Community Service Commission, along with a grant from the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) were awarded to the Walled Lake Fire Department to form the Walled Lake Citizen Corps Council and to train citizens so they will be prepared to respond to local emergencies and disasters.
 "This federal grant aids our Walled Lake fire fighters' dedicated efforts to protect and serve

us," said Congressman Thaddeus McCotter. Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) programs initially train first responders (fire, police, and emergency management professionals) who in turn train community members. CERT provides training in basic lifesaving, light rescue, light fire fighting, triage, and basic first aid skills.
 Funding from these grants is also used to support local Citizen Corps Councils, which involve community leaders in providing direction on issues relating to homeland security.

These councils, which include volunteer organizations, community leaders, first responders, and others, also help prepare communities to handle disasters and crisis situations.
 "Citizen Corps Councils play a critical role in local homeland security efforts," said Gary Zaslanski, Michigan Citizen Corps program coordinator. "When local leaders involve community members in solving the challenges relating to disasters, they expand opportunities for volunteers to engage in emergency preparation, prevention, and response."

TRAINING

The first CERT Training is scheduled to begin Wednesday, June 23 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Walled Lake Fire Station. Classes will be held every Wednesday for seven weeks with graduation on August 4. Training is free of charge. For more information about the Citizen Corps program in Walled Lake contact Fire Chief Ken Van Sparrentak at (248) 624-2088.

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POLICE REPORT

Speeders hit subdivision

A Novi man filed a traffic complaint at 8:20 a.m. May 14 concerning speeding vehicles in his subdivision, Dearborn at Fawn and Nine Mile Road. The man, who lives on Antler Drive, told police that nearly every day between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. sports cars occupied by teenagers drive past his house at a high rate of speed. He believes they are cutting through the subdivision to get to Meadowbrook from Nine Mile. The man told police that he wanted extra patrol and possibly a SMART trailer in the subdivision about once a month. No suspects are available at this time.

Give baby a break

An officer responded to a report of family abuse/neglect/neglect that occurred at 4:20 p.m. May 16 near the intersection of Twelve Mile and Novi Road. The officer responded to the area to find a child neglect complaint. Dispatch advised the officer that the complainant called police when he witnessed an infant being passed about a vehicle while the vehicle was in motion on the roadway. The officer checked the area for the vehicle, but was unable to find it. The license plate number given to police by the caller came back no record.

Home but not alone

A Novi man filed a complaint with police following a theft of under \$50 from his vehicle on Yorkshire Drive near the intersection of Christian and Jamestown that occurred sometime between 7:30 p.m. May 16 and 8 a.m. May 17. The man told police that during the overnight period that an unknown suspect or suspects entered his unlocked Jeep Grand Cherokee, which was parked in the driveway of his home. He said that the thief or thieves entered the vehicle and rifled through the glove box, stealing cash and change valued at about \$10. There was no damage and nothing else was taken from the vehicle. The suspects opened the garage door with the garage door opener that was in the car, but nothing was missing. No suspects or witnesses were available.

Toe ring thief tugged

An 18-year-old Novi woman was arrested for retail fraud at

Swan crashes through windshield

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

As the saying goes, truth is stranger than fiction.

Take, for example, an incident that happened last Saturday morning in Novi.

Pam Falzon of New Hudson was driving west on Grand River Avenue just west of Beck Road when a swan crashed through her windshield at 10:47 a.m.

The bird caused about \$1,700 worth of damage to her 1996 Mercury Villager minivan.

"I had just left Home Depot. I'm an artist and was buying some art supplies. The light had just changed, and I was on my way home.

"I saw a bird in the distance. The officer responded to the area in reference to a child neglect complaint. Dispatch advised the officer that the complainant called police when he witnessed an infant being passed about a vehicle while the vehicle was in motion on the roadway.

"When it hit, it went through the windshield and pulled apart the roofing of the interior of the

2:41 p.m. May 15 at Lord & Taylor department store at Twelve Oaks Mall. Novi police spoke with a loss prevention agent at the department store who said that while watching the security department's closed circuit television that she noticed the woman select a silver toe ring from the rack, remove it from its card and place the empty card back on the rack. She then took another toe ring from the rack and did the same thing, then placed the two toe rings into her left coat pocket. She then walked through the store, passing several open cash registers without attempting to pay, and left the store. When the loss prevention agent approached the woman

This party's now over

Five young people were arrested for minor in possession liquor violations at 1:28 a.m. May 14 at E. Glenhaven Circle and Onaway Court. Those arrested included a 19-year-old Detroit woman, an 18-year-old Farmington Hills woman, a 20-year-old Novi man, and two 19-year-old Dearborn men. Novi police were dispatched to Onaway Drive to investigate a report of a loud party involving juveniles. Upon

arriving at the scene, the officers talked to five young people and saw beer cans on the ground near the residence. The officers smelled strong intoxicants coming from each of the five as they obtained their identification. All subjects admitted to consuming alcohol that night.

Falzon admitted that it was quite a freak accident.

"This is something that never happens. The bird was huge. The wing span covered the whole windshield," she said.

"I really felt bad about it. It was such a surprise to see something like that happen. There are a lot of birds in flight in that area because there are two ponds — one on either side of Grand River. I've seen geese hit in that area before," she said.

Falzon said the Novi police officer on the scene was as shocked as she was when he saw the swan stuck in her windshield.

"His jaw dropped when he saw the bird," she said. Officer Scott Tewes said that the bird was halfway inside the minivan and halfway out of the vehicle.

"The wings kept it from going completely into the vehicle, but it collapsed the windshield. I'd never seen anything like that before. It's something you don't see every day," Tewes said.

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

about the stolen merchandise, she revealed two sterling silver Lord & Taylor toe rings valued at \$30 and \$10 and a pair of Givenchy earrings valued at \$22.

Sunglasses seized

A 20-year-old Clio woman was arrested for retail fraud at 6:56 p.m. May 17 at JC Penney's at Twelve Oaks Mall. Novi police were advised that a female was in custody at the department store for retail fraud. After arriving on the scene, the officer spoke with a loss prevention agent who said that at about 6:50 p.m. he saw a woman walk into a security system's closed circuit television shopping in the eyeglasses department. He saw the woman select a pair of sunglasses from the display and place them in a small shopping bag then leave the store making no attempt to pay for the glasses. The agent then recovered the eyeglasses and the sales tag that had been removed from an American Eagle shopping bag. The Relic brand black sunglasses were valued at \$20.

Gas 'n' go

The Mobile Mart at Twelve Oaks Mall at 43407 Grand River reported a theft that occurred at 9:20 a.m. May 14 at the gas station. The attendant told police that a white male pumped \$40 worth of gas into a white work van and then fled onto northbound Novi Road without paying for the gas. The attendant was unable to obtain a license plate number. Novi police checked the area, but were unable to locate the van.

Too close for comfort

A 24-year-old Farmington Hills woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 2:19 a.m. May 15 at Novi and Fourteen Mile roads. The officer was traveling northbound on Novi Road just north of Twelve Mile Road when he noticed that a white 2002 Pontiac was traveling less than a car length behind the vehicle in front of it. The officer also noticed that the vehicle was drifting from one side of its lane to another. After pulling the woman over, the officer noticed a strong smell of intoxicants coming from the vehicle and that her eyes were red and watery. When asked how much she had had to drink, she responded that she had had three drinks since 10 p.m. After taking a breath test, the woman's blood alcohol was measured at .14 percent.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

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Budget stalled Full-day kindergarten making a profit in Novi

continued from front page

through this issue was passed some time ago by city council — and the amount of legal fees to be set aside for the firm.

Landry suggested that some city council members are attempting to out the current law firm under contract with the city — Secret, Wardle, Lynch, Hampton, Trux and Morley, P.C. of Farmington Hills.

"The Trojan horse has been opened. It's about five voices and wanting to fire the city attorney. That's what it's all about. This is not this really bad," Landry said.

A majority of the discussion was about the amount of money that should be devoted to parks and recreation, with the need for irrigation of ballfields at Community Sports Park and improvements for physically challenged residents who want to go to city parks.

Member Lynne Paul wants the city to have only two administrators to do a job. I don't know what five sergeants and one additional patrol officer and keep 16 dispatchers, but then she voted no on Landry's final motion.

"She just came up to me while I was getting water and told me if we'd go with the two sergeants instead of these and 16 dispatchers she would vote for this, and now you've changed your mind within

three damn minutes," Member Kim Capello said to Paul.

"I'm tired of wasting my valuable family time to come here and play games with these women," Capello said.

"I really want more Indians than chiefs in the police department, and I want to see the money go to parks and rec," Paul said.

In reference to an earlier statement Paul made about Tuesday night about "robbing Peter to pay Paul," in budget discussions, Capello said: "You mentioned robbing from Peter to pay Paul. Well, Paul's been paid. We've moved everything we can over to parks and rec. I'm sick of talking about something that should have been handled at the very first meeting."

Resident Jim Hinkle lambasted the city council after the motion to adjourn was approved.

"I am ashamed to sit here and listen to the officials that we elected to do a job. I don't know what the heck is going on, but we elected you people to do a job, and you're doing a poor one. All you're doing is fighting over the budget. You people had better wake up, because half of you don't need to be up there," Hinkle said.

"The City of Novi is not going to put up with your bull stuff."

continued from front page

all of its elementary schools this year attracted many parents to start their kids' educational careers in the district, rather than waiting until the first grade.

"The state is going to give us \$8,000 per child, whether they are enrolled in full-day or half-day kindergarten," Schram said. "We have 43 more kids in kindergarten this year than we expected."

That equates to \$344,000. According to Jim Kostec, assistant superintendent of business and finance, the district needed approximately \$190,000 to break even.

"We made \$154,000 by having full-day kindergarten," said Schram. "When our overall enrollment went up seven percent and kindergarten enrollment went down, that's what made it even clearer to me that we're losing kids to the private sector when we had just half-day kindergarten."

The more students the district has in its schools, the more money will be brought in from the state. That's why it is very important to administrators to keep full-day kindergarten in tact.

"If we go back to half-day

kindergarten only, a number of parents would probably choose to have their kids go to another program, or a private school, or a child care center that offers a full-day kindergarten program," Davis said. "We would not get those students into the Novi school system until potentially the first grade."

Davis believes that the district's enrollment has gone up in part because people like the high school program as well. She explained that the two major time periods that parents tend to move their families is just before the oldest one goes to high school or when a child is ready to enter kindergarten.

"Those two spots, the kindergarten spot and the high school spot are crucial," Davis said. "For us, providing full-day kindergarten this year really bolstered the numbers. That gives us dollars."

"We have an excellent half-day kindergarten program, but the full-day kindergarten program simply gives an option for kids who are ready to be in an educational program for a longer period of time," she added. "They have the opportunity to extend their learning. It's

2004 NOVI SCHOOL ELECTION

not that it's a better academic program; it's the same academic program."

Davis explained that an extensive screening where students are questioned, tested or observed is performed to determine if they are ready for full-day kindergarten. There is a wide variety of activities or tasks that they complete, parents are asked about their child's personal habits, how many naps they still take and if they're they are potty trained. This is done to find out if kids are ready for the duration of a full-day program.

Ramez Khari is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhari@nl.homedcomm.net.

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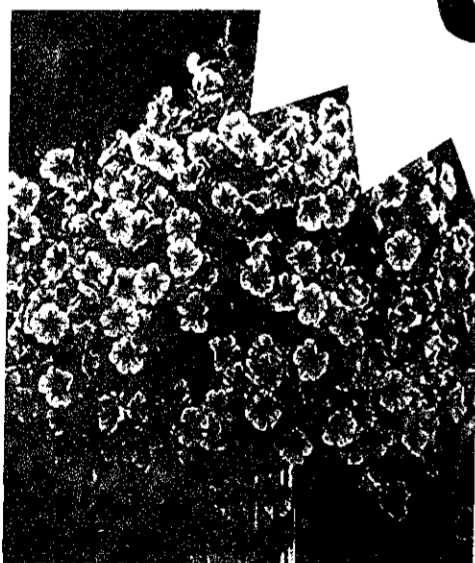
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COMMUNITY

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@nl.homecomm.net

Novi amends city's Nuisance Ordinance

■ Brochure provides checklist for homeowners

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The city council recently amended Novi's Nuisance Ordinance, pulling together offenses that affect property owners.

A new brochure published by the city, "Exterior Property Maintenance - Tips and Requirements," outlines some of the changes.

City Council approved the amendments to the ordinance May 3. A first offense costs \$200; a repeat offense costs \$500.

Cindy Uglow, neighborhood services coordinator, said the amended ordinance is an improvement.

Before the amendments were made, sections were scattered throughout the ordinance. The goal was to take these sections and establish a new code section which focuses on the condition of residential and commercial properties.

"It's more user-friendly. We pulled different sections from other code chapters that were specifically categorized nuisance-type ordinances and combined them into one chapter called the Nuisance Ordinance. Within that ordinance, we're starting to address the exterior maintenance of the property, including dwellings, weeds and inoperable vehicles," she said.

The new brochure has a checklist to help owners determine if their property needs repair.

Property owners are not allowed to have trash, debris, garbage or uncut weeds. Weeds and plants, including cultivated flowers and garden areas, must be less than eight inches high. All noxious weeds are prohibited.

Residents can also not have inoperable, unlicensed or dismantled vehicles parked in their yard.

Areas cannot be cluttered with old lumber, scrap metal, aluminum, appliances or furniture. Are there rat burrows on the property, and, if so, is trash or dog food stored on the property?

Firewood must be stacked at least six feet from a structure, off the ground and free of any rubbish or debris.

Dead trees, tree limbs or brush must also be removed. And roofs can't sag or have missing or damaged shingles or holes. Property owners are urged to check eaves and soffits for missing boards, damage or rot.

Cracks or holes in the building foundation are to be patched and walls with rotted wood, broken, loose or missing siding, cracks in mortar or cracked, blistered or peeling paint should be repaired.

Gutters that sag, leak or have missing or disconnected sections, are rusty or need paint also deserve attention.

Broken windows, torn or missing screens, windows that don't fit within the frame well, have rotten frames or cracked, blistered or peeling paint or do not open and close properly need to be addressed.

Doors that do not fit within the frame well, have rotted wood, cracked, blistered or peeling paint or do not open and close properly are other things to look for in keeping buildings up to code in the city.

Porches with missing boards or railings, that have deteriorated columns or are not supported properly, sag excessively, have cracked, blistered or peeling paint or iron screens also must be fixed.

Stairs to porches can't sag, have missing steps or have loose or missing handrails. A handrail must be present if there are more than four steps.

Garages, sheds and other detached buildings that lean or have any of the conditions listed above are also in violation of the ordinance.

Fences and retaining walls that lean, have parts missing, are loose or unstable, need paint or have any cracks that need patching should also be repaired.

Property owners should check sidewalks for any tripping hazards, graffiti should be removed or painted over, and it is unlawful to have a portable toilet on land zoned residential unless it's a construction site, park or school facility. Residents, however, can obtain a special permit for portable toilets for a special event.

Finally, owners must also clear snow and ice from sidewalks within 24 hours after the end of accumulation of snow greater than two inches.

Those with questions about code compliance issues can call the city at (248) 735-5678.

"...we're starting to address the exterior maintenance of the property, including dwellings, weeds and inoperable vehicles."

Cindy Uglow
Neighborhood Services Coordinator

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

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Rain, rain, go away
As cars roll through Novi Road north of Ten Mile Road, they throw up a large volume of water in the aftermath of last Friday's torrential downpour in the area. The National Weather Service estimates that 70 billion gallons of rain has fallen in Oakland County from last Thursday to Tuesday.

Go Around the Block with SWOCC news

By Melissa Cohn

Your friendly neighborhood SWOCC staffers are at it again, and this time, they're just around the block. SWOCC Around the Block is the local news magazine show designed to keep you on top of what's happening in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi. Covering community events in an up-beat news-style format, SWOCC is reinventing government television.

Novi's SWOCC Around the Block this month features a story on The Novi Public Library and a very generous gift that was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Walker.

SWOCC cameras were also at the Novi Senior Center to catch an interesting performance of Japanese story telling known as Rakugo. You'll be able to sit back as a Master navigates the language barrier and entertains this captive audience.

And for the last segment, and just in time for summer, SWOCC takes a look at In-line skating and skate boarding rules and safety tips for kids when it comes to these popular yet dangerous sports. So before you strap on your skates or grab your board hear what SWOCC correspondent Kat Geogis reports about skating.

You can watch SWOCC Around the Block on Novi's Channel 13 on Sundays at 3 p.m. and 9:18 p.m., Mondays at 10 a.m. and 10:34 p.m., Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and 10:34 p.m., Thursdays 11 a.m., Fridays at 10 a.m. and 10:34 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 a.m.

This month on Farmington's SWOCC Around the Block we spend time with students at Dunkle Middle School. The Girls Only Leadership Development (G.O.L.D.) night helped girls to have their minds set on what matters as they go for the GOLD. Tune in to see what happens when you take 75 middle school girls, local area leaders, a lot of food, and lock them in school overnight!

The next story lets you in on what the City of Farmington requires for building a deck or addition on to your house. SWOCC Staff sat down and spoke with Farmington's Kevin Gushman and John Koncol. If you're planning on doing any remodeling or additions to your home this spring or summer, you're not going to want to miss this segment.

Next SWOCC cameras take you to a local "Hollywood" event at the Farmington Civic, hosted and organized by the Call to Action Coalition. A number of city officials, residents and students came out this night to watch and support the "Lights, Camera, Call to Action!" to raise awareness on teen substance abuse. A video contest was held for students with a cash prize for the first three place winners, so be sure to tune in for all the highlights of this first time event!

SWOCC then weaves together a story for local sewers. The viewers can visit the Embroider's guild, as SWOCC asks some local sewing gurus what the guild really does.

For more information about SWOCC Studios, call (248) 473-2800. Melissa Cohn is the Community Relations for SWOCC Studios. The next Cable Access Committee meeting is Tuesday, June 8 at 6 pm at SWOCC Studios.

AROUND THE BLOCK

You can watch SWOCC Around the Block on Channel 13 on Sundays, 11:21 a.m. and 9 p.m., Mondays 7 p.m., Tuesdays 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., Wednesdays 2 p.m., 9:21 p.m., 11:41 p.m., Thursdays 9:41 a.m. and 4:21 p.m. and 7 p.m., Fridays 9 a.m., 2 p.m., 11 p.m., and Saturdays, 8 p.m.

'Name the Park' entries requested

Community invited to name family fun park

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Many members of the Novi community have been anxiously awaiting the development of the Novi Family Fun Park.

The entertainment complex, created by Jeffrey and Theresa Wainwright of Michigan Entertainment PMC, will be located on the south side of Grand River Avenue just west of Taft Road next to Gatsby's Restaurant.

The Wainwrights have decided to have some fun and involve the community in a "Name the Park" Contest.

The complex, which will feature a variety of activities for all ages, is scheduled to open in August or September.

Novi News readers are invited to help the Wainwrights develop an interesting and unique name for the Novi park.

"We are in the process of obtaining building permits for the property now," Theresa Wainwright said.

Concessions will include such offerings as salads, "Perky's Pizza," hotdogs, stushes and soft-serve ice cream.

Plans for the park, which will be open year-round, are to have extensive open picnic areas and group picnic facilities.

Activities will include bumper boats with a special spirit-back feature for on-lookers, a three-sided climbing wall, Michigan's first automated soccer cages, a family go-kart track, an electric pee wee car track, laser tag, an Australian trampoline center, game room and three birthday party rooms that can be combined into one or two larger rooms.

The park will also have a Web site in the near future.

"We have a Web designer working on our site now," Theresa Wainwright said.

"We want the community to be involved in naming the park because it's a family fun park designed for families in the community. It only makes sense for the families to name the park," Theresa Wainwright said.

DETAILS

Those interested in entering the "Name the Park" Contest should send their entries to: "Name the Park" Contest P.O. Box 435 Novi, MI 48376. Entries must be postmarked by June 10.

The person submitting the winning entry will receive:

- One year miniature golf pass
- One completely inclusive birthday party package for 10 children, including meals and game room tokens
- Four go-kart passes
- Four climbing wall passes
- Four trampoline center passes
- Four bumper boat adventure passes
- Four laser tag specialty passes
- Four soccer cage passes
- Four kiddie car track passes

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

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BUSINESS

Paisley seeks clean-up funding for Local Color

By Jim Totten
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS

A producer of root beer, beer, liquor and energy drinks has received a nod of approval to start establishing a brownfield authority in Green Oak Township.

The brownfield authority would allow Green Oak to capture increased tax revenues from new investment in the old Thermofill building and use those funds to clean up the site, which is contaminated. The township board supported the idea of trying to create an authority for VODA Distilling Inc., which is currently scrubbing the building's interior so it can begin production of an energy drink.

Officials were happy to see interest in the large vacant manufacturing building.

"What we have here is a building that has sat vacant for five years, is being vandalized and becoming an eyesore," said Mark St. Charles, Green Oak Township supervisor. "We have a chance to rehabilitate this building and create new jobs."

The Thermofill site has been vacant since 1998, when a huge fire destroyed part of the business. Thermofill, which had sought water for a fire-suppression system, moved its operation to Fowlerville. Unlike Thermofill, the building's new owner, Peter Paisley, will have the advantage of water service. The township is wrapping up work to

supply water to the area as part of the Livingston Community Water Authority.

Paisley is planning to invest \$3 million in the building, and the company is expecting to create 40 new full-time jobs.

Rick Seymour, township trustee, said he couldn't see any risks, short of the company not making it.

"We end up with a pretty empty building and a cleaned up site," Seymour said.

James Tischler told the board an estimated \$50,000 would be needed to assess the contamination. Tischler is employed with AKT Peeless Environmental Services, which was hired by VODA Distilling to help set up the brownfield authority.

Tischler said another \$500,000 would be spent to tear up the existing floor and install a system to prevent vapors from coming up through the floor.

"We have an idea of what we think may need to be done, but we don't know exactly until the assessment is done," Tischler said.

Increased taxes that could be captured would include school taxes and local taxes. The authority cannot capture debt millage.

Paisley used to own and operate Local Color, a popular Novi restaurant and brewery. He closed Local Color in order to focus completely on the VODA distillery/brewery project in Green Oak.

"The VODA has changed our



Former Novi business owner Peter Paisley plans to open a brewery/bottling plant in the cavernous interior of the former Thermofill plant in Green Oak Township.

Paisley said products made at the Green Oak Township site will be distributed to other businesses for sale. He said there will be no direct sales at the site, but there would be a room where the public could sample the products. Paisley said he doesn't know when he will start making beer and alcohol. He said it all depends on the license process.

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Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.R.I.

Millions of Americans suffer with allergy symptoms as soon as spring flowers bloom. It's not just the flowers that cause trouble. Trees, weeds, and grasses also begin to blossom in the spring, spreading their pollen for miles. Frequent rain during the spring months encourages mold growth inside and outside the home. For spring cleaners who are pulling up rugs and removing dust throughout the home, disturbed dust mites can become airborne and trigger symptoms. To control pollen, wash bedding weekly in hot water. At the end of a spring day spent outdoors, shower and wash hair to remove pollen. When cleaning or painting, wear a mask and gloves to reduce exposure to irritants and dust. Choose washable carpeting.

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SHREK 2

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Big Joe struts its stuff

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

In an attempt to make students interested in robotics, Frog Force 503, Novi High School's robotics team, paid a visit to Parkview Elementary School on May 14 with the robot they built and recently used in national competitions.



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER

Novi High School's Frog Force 503 robot drops a basketball through a net during a demonstration to Parkview Elementary School students last Friday.

The high schoolers told the younger kids that the robot, named "Big Joe," took six weeks to build. They then demonstrated how it can put a basketball through a net in the gymnasium and also how it can suspend itself from one of the baskets using a rope.

"Our presentation was mainly to show off our robotics team and to get kids interested in a young age in both Lego League and robotics," Novi High Senior Jeff Hapler said. "We gave them a demonstration of what we do as part of that team."

Novi High Sophomore Jennifer White is Frog Force 503's manager. Her job is to promote the team in the community and schedule different presentations. She explained that the Lego League is a junior robotics league for ages 9 to 14. It starts off kids in robotics so that when they get to the high school level, they can become a part of their high school robotics team.

"Basically, you use Legos and it has the function of robotics, only on a smaller scale," White said. "Right now is the time that registration is going on for it."

According to Novi High Senior AJ Franche, there are a lot of benefits in entering a robotics or Lego League team. He said that it introduces students to the real world, especially the engineering world. They get a lot of insight in planning,

our team - and when you have 45 minds putting everything into one robot, there is a lot of compromise that goes into it. It's a great thing for kids to do instead of just going home after school. You're learning and having fun at the same time. You learn so much and you make so many contacts. You get to work with amazing people and you get scholarships out of it."

One person who benefited from a scholarship, thanks to the robotics team, was Hapler. He received a \$18,000 scholarship to attend Lawrence Technological University next year.

"Last year I looked at the different scholarships available," he said. "There were two available to juniors and one was for Lawrence Tech. Only one person from each team can apply. I got a letter in the mail about two months afterwards saying I won it, so, I was set for college in the middle of my junior year because of robotics."

After the robotics presentation, students witnessed what a Lego League robot can do, as it also tried to get a small ball into a container. Then the kids got a special treat when a Segway Machine was brought in. It is motorized machine that has only two wheels. Teachers and students alike got a chance to ride it and had fun in the process.

The Parkview PTO made a donation to Frog Force 503.

For more information on robotics or the Lego League, visit www.visionsofchild.org, or e-mail Craig Hapler at cliepler08@icloud.com.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@h.comcon.net.

Budding camera bugs learn from Nagler

By Kim Baker
INTERIM



Monte Nagler signs students' Visions of a Child pieces. Courtesy photo.

Some very proud Wixom fourth graders will have photographs that they took on display at the Wixom library until May 31 for the program "Visions of a Child." The program involves photographer Monte Nagler of Monte Nagler Photography, LLC in Farmington Hills instructing the students on how to take a good picture, setting them loose with disposable cameras and choosing the best photo from each child to put on display.

Wixom schools started participating in Visions of a Child three years ago, after Nagler told City Manager Michael Dorman about it. "Mr. Dorman thought that the kids could benefit from it and we started putting the program together," said Jodi Gallo, Wixom's Parks and Recreation Supervisor. The city paid for the children's disposable cameras and the developing of the pictures and this is the second year Wixom received a grant for the program from both the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Oakland County Office of Arts, Culture and Film.

Originally, Wixom only offered Visions of a Child to Wixom Elementary's fourth graders. "The first year we started out with about 80 kids," Gallo says. Last year,

Wixom Lake Elementary and Walled Lake Elementary were added to the program as some children who live in Wixom attend these schools, resulting in 265 children participating this year. "What we wanted to do was include all of the fourth grade children who reside in Wixom," Gallo said, and as a result, "there are also other communities that get to be involved."

The Visions of a Child program originally started about nine years ago in Ann Arbor. "It was Bearwood Mall that had the initial idea and then they talked to Monte about doing a program," said Mickey Nagler, Monte's wife and marketing director. "The motto did it as a sponsor for the Ann Arbor schools. The children were overjoyed. Each one had a piece of

work displayed so that made them feel very good." The program's initial success in Ann Arbor prompted Nagler to continue it for third and fourth grades attending Livonia, Rochester Hills, Detroit, and now Wixom schools.

Mickey says that Monte enjoys working with children and their enthusiasm and interest in learning new things are the true reasons for the program's success. "The spirit of the child is just so free and unrestricted and with children (photography) is just so natural as well as unbridled," she says. The children, parents, teachers and the whole city of Wixom are benefiting from the program's success. "The spirit of the child is just so free and unrestricted and with children (photography) is just so natural as well as unbridled," she says. The children, parents, teachers and the whole city of Wixom are benefiting from the program's success. "The spirit of the child is just so free and unrestricted and with children (photography) is just so natural as well as unbridled," she says. The children, parents, teachers and the whole city of Wixom are benefiting from the program's success.

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Novi's Spring Perennial Exchange

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TIME: 9 a.m. - noon
LOCATION: Old Township Hall, Ten Mile Rd., East of Taft Rd.
DETAILS: Rain or shine. Bring your unneeded extras to the exchange and trade, free of charge, for a different plant that you're always wanted.
CONTACT: 248-347-0400.

Memorial Day Parade

DATE: Monday, May 31
TIME: 10 a.m.
LOCATION: The parade will begin at Karim Boulevard (just west of Haggerty Road) and travel



west on Ten Mile Road, concluding at the Novi Civic Center between Novi and Taft roads.
CONTACT: (248) 735-5613

CLASSES

Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Tuesdays at Assarian"

DATE: every Tuesday night
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 4760 Grand River, Novi.
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come and enjoy a unique mix of classes brought to you by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts. Aug. 26 - Modern Japanese Calligraphy. Ceramics. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more than \$10).
CONTACT: (248) 465-5483.

CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 calstone@h.comcon.net

HEALTH

Free Blood Pressure Screening

DATES: every Monday
TIME: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
DETAILS: This service will be available until Jan. 31.
LOCATION: Charter House of Novi, 24500 Meadowbrook Road, Novi, MI 48375
CONTACT: (248) 477-2000

Oakland County Health Division Child Health Clinics

DETAILS: Free wellness check-ups, immunizations, physical exams, guidance/referrals on behavioral, learning, and health problems.
CONTACT: Oakland County Health Division, Mary White, program coordinator, Child Health Clinics, (248) 858-1380.

MEETINGS

Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission

DATE: Tuesday, May 27
TIME: 7:30 a.m.
LOCATION: SWOCC Studios, 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington
CONTACT: (248) 473-2800

Friends of Maybury State Park

DATE: Wednesday, June 2
TIME: 7-9 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville Public Library
DETAILS: Park events planning will be discussed at the meeting.
CONTACT: (248) 349-2867

The Sierra Club Community Workshop

DATE: Thursday, June 3
TIME: 6:30 to 8:30 PM
LOCATION: Novi Public Library, 45245 W. 10 Mile Rd.
DETAILS: The Workshop will discuss both local and national environmental problems created by the Bush administration, and will develop a plan for addressing these challenges in Oakland County.
CONTACT: For details, call the Oakland County Sierra Club office at (248) 435-5277 or check www.sierraclub.org/community

CORRECTION

The May 20 Novi News article on Sports at the Fountain gave an incorrect date for the ESPN Sports Trivia Tour at Fountain Walk shopping center in Novi that will help celebrate the cable television channel's 25th anniversary.

■ The ESPN Sports Trivia Tour will take place July 3. This event will include a "Super Spot Basketball" challenge, ESPN Magazine kiosk and hands-on sports activities. The main event will be the trivia challenge, with the winner receiving an all-expense-paid trip for two to the ESPN 25th Anniversary VIP Experience in New York City.

■ The Sports at the Fountain May 30 event at Galyan's Sports and Outdoor Adventure will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more info about these free events, call (248) 348-8762.

BUSINESS

Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 10 Mile Rd.
TIME: 7-8:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referral

business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.
CONTACT: (734) 462-6460

Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to calstone@h.comcon.net.

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OBITUARIES

MaryAnn Chapman

MaryAnn Chapman died May 23, 2004. She was 81. Survivors include two daughters, Susan (Robert) Mills and Sandy (Mike) Kuhna; four grandchildren, Angela (Joe) Rohr, Scott (Wendy) Kolna, Marcia (Jim) Burk and Kristine (Todd) Connellic; one great-grandson, Henry Kuhna; and two siblings, William C. Ray, Jr. and Nancy Leone.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James. A funeral service was held May 26 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi. Memorials may be made to a charity of donor's choice. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home. Online sympathy messages: www.obrien-sullivanfuneralhome.com.

Howard R. "Tim" Rourke

Howard Rourke died May 20, 2004. He was 85. Survivors include three children, Pat, Mike, and Tim Rourke; and Kathy Oulinc, four grandchildren, Jamie, Mike, Mark and Micki, and three great-grandchildren, Kyle, Logan and Chase. His wife, Dorothy, preceded

Work exercise into your routine on the road

By Ernie Harwell

If you travel a lot for work, like I did for so many years, it can be difficult to maintain healthy habits. The secret is to watch what you eat and drink and to develop a routine that includes some exercise and no follow it religiously.

When I was traveling with the Tigers, I had a routine of waking up at 7 a.m., eating a light breakfast and then walking for about 45 minutes to an hour. For many of those years, I was joined by Tiger manager Sparky Anderson. Afterwards, I'd relax a bit, do some work, have a light lunch, and then go to the ballpark.

If you spend a lot of time traveling, try developing a routine of getting out for a walk or a light jog in the morning. It's a great way to start the day, get some exercise and take in the sights wherever you are.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's nagging gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for the Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking four 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.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 5/27

9:30 a.m. Line Dance
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
Lunch
12:15 p.m. Bridge
1 p.m. Beginners Line Dance
Friday 5/28
No Stretch & Strength
9 a.m. Pancake Bread
10 a.m. Body Recall
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop open
Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
noon Clogging
12:30 p.m. Dupl. Bridge

Monday 5/31

Senior Center, Management Office, Lunch Service
Transportation - Closed For Memorial Day

Tuesday 6/1

9 a.m. Pancake Bread
9 a.m.-11 a.m. Computer Class-Beginners
9:30 a.m. Line Dance
10 a.m. Asian Pacific
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
1 p.m.-3 p.m. Computer Class-Windows
Vermont Trip

Wednesday 6/2

9 a.m. Stretch & Strength
9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Massage Therapy
10 a.m. Body Recall
10:30 a.m. Quilting
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Sundry Shop Open
11 a.m. TOPS Class
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Clogging

*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Phone (248) 347-0414.

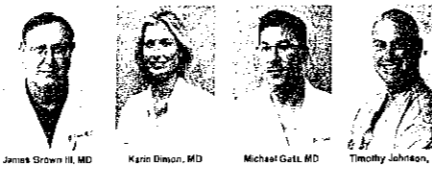
Funeral Home

A funeral service was held May 23 at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 393 Bay 2680, North Canton, Ohio, 44720. Arrangements were made by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home. Online sympathy messages: www.obrien-sullivanfuneralhome.com.

Westside Obstetrics and Gynecology
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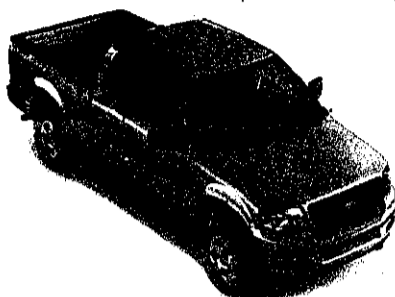
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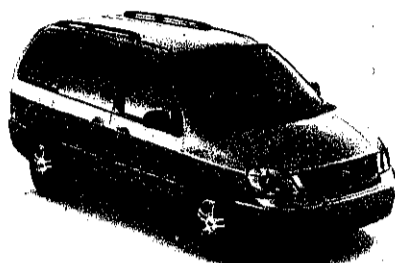
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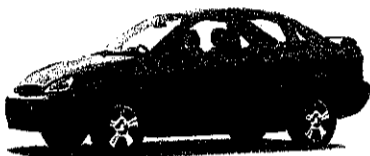
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(1) Some payments higher, some lower. Not all Lessees will qualify for lowest payment. For special lease terms, RCL Cash and \$500 A/Z plan cash on F-150 and Explorer 4dr, take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 6/1/2004. RCL Cash may be taken in cash, but is used towards down payment in examples shown. Lease renewal cash only available to customers terminating their Ford Division Red Carpet Lease and re-lease for 36 months by 6/1/2004. Leases terminated early qualify if terminated within program dates. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. Residency restrictions apply. See dealer for complete details. All payment examples are for Current Ford Employees and eligible family member Lessees.

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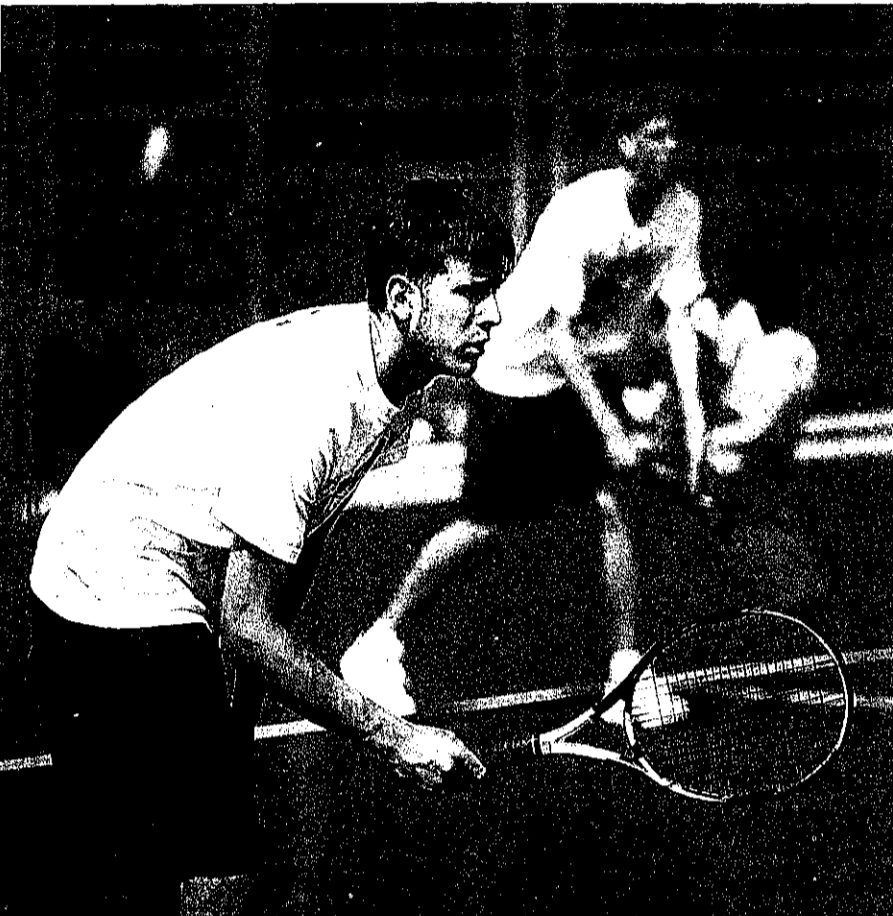
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'Cats state-bound

Tennis earns trip to finals with impressive play



By Sam Eggleston
RECORD SPORTS WRITER

It was simply a goal at the beginning of the season. Now, it's reality.

The Northville Mustangs and the Novi Wildcats boys tennis teams have earned berths in the state finals, thanks to some impressive play in one of the toughest regionals in the state.

Detroit Catholic Central took first place, earning 31 points, while Northville collected 21 and Novi carded 20.

It takes 18 total points or a top-two finish in the regional to advance to state finals play, which will be June 4-5 in Midland. Only qualifying players will compete in the second day.

"Both teams deserved to go to the state finals," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "Northville is a quality team and so are we. It's great that both teams are going to make the trip to Midland."

Competitive play

Heading into the highly-competitive tournament, Hanson and Northville coach Chris Ford discussed the possibility of both teams making it with such a strong Shamrocks team to contend with.

"We figured that as long as neither of us swept the other one, we would both make the tournament," Ford said. "Of course there were some unknown factors such as Dearborn Fordson and Southfield."

The two squads earned their berths with intense play across the board. At one singles, it was Northville's Jason Spruit that first took on Catholic Central in

Novi's #1 doubles team - James Peurach, left, and Drew Doster - play a match against Pinckney opponents in a home game in mid-May.

Continued on B2

Corrections

- It was Doug Benton, a senior slugger, that hit the game-winning home run in the contest against the Northville Mustangs and not Chris Scott. Benton, who has been hitting well all season, had two fingers in the contest to help seal the victory.
- Also, throwing a personal best in the discus against the Brighton Bulldogs for the girls track team was Jennifer Rowe. She was misidentified as Jen Rowe in the article. Rowe threw 78-foot-8-inches for third place against Brighton.
- The Detroit Jaguars minor league soccer team was mistakenly called the Novi Jaguars in last week's edition.
- Finally, it was not Kim Herbst pictured in soccer action last week. It was goalie Colleen Dougherty.

Left out in the cold

Rumor has it Novi volleyball coach Julie Fisetle feels left out. Why? Well, we here at the Novi News have been running briefs regarding basketball camps and haven't bothered to mention the fact that Fisetle, who is the varsity volleyball coach at Novi, is holding a volleyball camp.

The camp, which is slated to run June 21-25 with grades third through eighth going from 9-11:30 a.m. and ninth grade and up going from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

The cost of the camp is \$87 for Novi residents and includes a T-shirt. The cost will be \$92 for non-Novi campers. There will also be a slew of various competitions held during the five-day camp.

For more information or to sign up for the camp, which is coached by Fisetle and some varsity Wildcat volleyball players, please call Community Education at (248) 449-1206.

Close call

For some people, high school athletics is the most important thing in the world. For others, it means nothing more than just a game being played.

One Northville High School athlete by the name of Layne Scherer — a top golfer in the area — found out just how trivial sports can be at times.

Scherer, who is a senior at Northville, was involved in a car accident on Haggerty Road two weeks ago. The result? Her car lit on fire and burned up, taking everything inside with it. That included her golf clubs.

But, in the end, it wasn't the clubs that really mattered.

"We're just happy she was OK," Northville golf coach Trish Murray said. "Sometimes you get on the kids about playing better and better and then something like this happens. Golf means nothing compared to someone's life."

Scherer, thankfully, was fine after the incident. She returned to school the following Monday and was back on the course in no time — with a set of demo clubs.

Bobcats looking for players

The Northville-Novi Youth Football Association is looking for additional varsity players that reside in the Novi School District. A second team, Novi Bobcats, was created this year for Novi School District residents. The freshman and junior varsity teams were very successful in meeting the roster sizes. However, 15 additional varsity players are needed that meet the following requirements: Ages 12-13 (As of July 31) with a weight maximum of 165 lbs. Age 14 (As of July 31) with a maximum weight of 130 lbs. The Novi Bobcats Varsity offers increased opportunities for the development of the serious youth football player. Other benefits/advantages of playing for the Bobcats include: roster size capped at 33 players, an eight-game schedule including playoffs, minimum guaranteed game playing time, lowest youth player to coach ratio in the area and more practice time geared toward teaching the fundamentals of football. The Novi Bobcats provides a fun, family-orientated atmosphere in a variety of on and off the field activities.

If you are going into the seventh or eighth grade and are serious about learning the game of football and developing your skills further, please contact Ken Hasse at (248) 347-0343.

Boys send six to finals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

What's better than qualifying for the state finals meet in Division I lower peninsula competition?

Setting a new school record while you're at it.

The Novi Wildcats boys track and field team had that happen last week at the Midford Regional. Thanks to ill-suited weather, the Regional meet was canceled in half with one part being played out on Friday and the rest on Saturday.

"It was a great meet despite the weather," Novi coach Robert Smith said.

The 4-by-100 team of Justin Davis, Josh Woods, David Carnegie and Carl Yiu made a statement with a second-place finish in a time of 43.60 seconds. Their mark edged the record of 43.88 seconds set at Novi in 1989.

Quite to accomplishment for the Wildcats — most of who will return next year to compete for Novi's track squad again.

Despite the record-setting performance, the relay team's showing wasn't the most impressive of them all. No, that honor went to junior Ryan Pritchard, who took the regional championship in the discus to secure a spot at the state meet.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Wildcat Josh Woods runs towards a second-place finish in a May meet at Hartland High School. Teammate Justin Davis finished first in this heat.

Continued on B3

Jenn Mehl, Christina Lis will represent girls in finals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

"They say that it's the experience that counts in the long run. No matter how much heart and determination an athlete has, it's their experience that can make the difference in the long run."

Novi girls track and field stars Christina Lis and Jenn Mehl have made a point to prove that true. The state-finals visitors from last year used that experience to earn themselves a trip again.

"We had two athletes qualify for the state meet," Novi coach Marsha Reid said. "Both athletes are returning state meet participants."

Mehl, who set the Novi High School record in the pole vault with a leap of 11-feet-2-inches recently, won the Regional with a jump true to championship form. In fact, she went ahead and broke her own school record by adding another inch to it with a clear of 11-3 to send her to the state finals.

Lis, who was second in the high jump at the state meet last year, will return again this year to try and defend her position against the best-of-the-best.

"Several athletes had great performances at a meet that has the best of all athletes show up," Reid said.

Other outstanding notables in the contest were the girls in the 3,200-meter relay team. Patti Ramos, Meghan Bannatz, Katie Shannon and Andrea Kramer ran a season-best time of 10:26.

"I am extremely proud of our girls and all of their efforts this year."

Marsha Reid
Novi girls track coach

Two freshman that had some impressive performances all year and show great promise for the future of the track program at Novi are Allie Sisson and Kramer.

Kramer not only ran in the 3,200 relay, but ran the two-mile and placed sixth in the regional. Sisson, on the other hand, had a personal best time in the 400 with a run of 1:01.6.

"I am extremely proud of our girls and all of their efforts this year," Reid said.

The girls may not be finished as of yet. The Kensington Valley Conference meet was held Tuesday (after the Novi News went to print) and the athletes who qualify will compete in the Oakland County meet, which is tomorrow.

Mehl and Lis will represent Novi once again in the state finals, which will be held at Rockford High School June 5.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or by e-mail at seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Roshan Ramachandran steps into the ball and smacks it with his forehead during a home game against a Pinckney opponent in May.

Wildcats and 'Stangs both earn nod to finals

Continued from B1

the third round of play. He fell 6-4, 6-0 to Britton Steele. Novi earned the bonus in the final, but Satya Ramachandran fell 6-0, 6-0 to the flight champion.

At two singles, Northville once again met up with the Shamrocks in the third round. This time, Jon Lee took on Andrew Lalek and gave him a run before falling. Novi's Prasanna Venkatesh fell in the final, 6-1, 6-2.

Northville and Novi separated off in the third round of third singles. Brian Benschke, a senior, beat Roshan Ramachandran in three sets, 6-3, 7-5, 7-5.

"It always feels good to beat Novi," Benschke said. "The rivalry between our two teams is definitely there. It's good competition."

Benschke moved on to play Catholic Central's Kevin Bender in the final and fell in that contest.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's #1-ranked tennis player Suraj Ramachandran warms up his Pinckney opponent on the Novi Middle School courts during a mid-May matchup.

At one doubles, the only non-Catholic Central squad was crowned regional champions. The Northville duo of Jackson Knoll and Matt Lewick topped Catholic Central's squad in the final game to earn the right.

"It was a lot of fun," Lewick said. "We have a strong team and when we play at our best we can challenge a lot of teams."

The Wildcats weren't so fortunate as they fell in three sets in the same flight to the Shamrocks. James Penick and Drew Doster fell 7-6, 6-4 to their opponents.

"They played them strong," Hanson said. "When you can go three sets against a team like Catholic Central, you're doing something right."

At two doubles, Novi's Kevin Lar and Eric McQueen fell to Northville's Jeremy Risenman and Colin Ackerman in three sets, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

The Mustangs then went on to fall to Catholic Central's duo in the final match to earn the runner-up position.

The third doubles flight found Catholic Central taking yet another crown. This time, over Novi's Kristine Enters and left Korbey, 6-2, 6-1. The match prior, Enters and Korbey edged Northville's Lacey Delino and Naia McMill, 6-4, 7-6 (7).

At fourth doubles, Catholic Central beat Novi's Ryan Befferman and Justin Nomin in the final game, 6-2, 7-5. In the semis, it was Varun Shekhar and Ashlyn Saliz taking on the Wildcats and falling, 6-0, 6-3.

"I was very pleased with how the third and fourth doubles teams played," Hanson said. "They put up a fight against one of the best teams in the state."

Onward and upward

The Mustangs and Wildcats will now play in the state finals, which is slated for June 4-5 in Midland.

June 5 just happens to be the graduation for both schools — meaning the tennis seniors may be late for their own diplomas.

"For the most part, I think our parents want us to be at the graduation," Lewick said. "They've put up with 13 years of school to see us graduate. But, I think we're going to be able to make it on time. If we aren't, I think most of the guys are willing to be late."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleson@h.homecomm.net.

Detroit Jaguar player Nicole Cauzillo will play for Kansas

By Sam Eggleston
RECORD SPORTS WRITER

It's a tough decision for any prominent high school athlete: what college to attend, and where best to play collegiate sports?

"It's even tougher the second time around."

Nicole Cauzillo would know. The Northville graduate found herself unhappy at West Virginia University just past year, even though she was playing soccer, the sport she loved more than any other.

But the team simply wasn't what she had expected, despite being competitive and even successful. The school wasn't academically challenging. It just wasn't fun anymore.

"I just didn't feel like the school had the whole package," she said.

The coaching staff wasn't helping as I felt I wasn't improving. I was just staying the same. The team had a kind of negativity too. I was just miserable playing soccer.

For a girl who grew up playing the game and admits she'd probably play 24 hours a day "if the sun were shining," being miserable playing the game she had grown to love just wasn't an option.

Change in the wind

So she decided to act. Next fall she will be attending a new school.

"I'm actually going to the University of Kansas," she said. "They made the sweet 16 last year and so did West Virginia. I just like the overall feel of the campus. It's a lot like Northville. It's pretty and clean."

Cauzillo will take with her to Kansas plenty of individual accolades, earned during her freshman stint at West Virginia.

The team finished 10th in the country and she was selected to the All-Freshman Big East team, comprised of the top 11 freshman in the conference.

She started all 22 games last season and helped her team compile a 17-1-1 record.

"We had a very, very good season," she said.

But Cauzillo expects the same from the Jayhawks of Kansas. She said that out of the 11 teams in the Big 12 conference, eight have made the NCAA tournament.

Summer prep

To keep herself busy, she has landed herself on what amounts to three different summer teams. Currently she's with the Detroit Jaguars W-League soccer club, which is a minor-league team based out of Novi. She is also playing for the Jaguars' 23-and-under squad. In June, she'll begin playing for the Michigan



Photo by DAVID AGUILAR

Northville grad and current Detroit Jaguar Nicole Cauzillo will play for Kansas next year.

Perspective

Cauzillo now willingly offers advice to high school athletes, pondering potential collegiate athletic careers.

"If you're going to be a Division I athlete, you had better love your sport, because it's all sports and school at that level and nothing else," she said. "It's a full-time job and if you don't love it, then you're not going to be happy."

Cauzillo is happy with her decision to transfer to Kansas.

"I'm so happy," she said. "I can't wait to play again. I can't wait to be on a team competing for a national title. I can't wait to walk off the field with a smile no matter if we just won or lost. That's what I've been looking for and I think I've found it in Kansas."

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Wildcats roll Spartans as they prep for district



Photo by BARBARA HERBST

Novi's Emily Esbrook gets ready to launch a kick earlier this year in a mercy victory over Howell.

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It hasn't been very often this year that the Novi Wildcats girls' soccer team was faced with a tied game. Sometimes, that's good medicine for a squad.

The Wildcats, who are coached by Brian O'Leary, found themselves being offered a spoonful of that medicine by Livonia Stevenson last week. The team took it with a big gulp and then went on to beat the Spartans, 4-1.

"I was real happy with the way we reacted," O'Leary said of his squad being tied up in the first half of the contest, 1-1. "We didn't get down. We just kept going at Stevenson."

The Wildcats opened the scoring in the slightest, came back with a score of their own, tying the game at 1-1 just eight minutes later.

That was when the Wildcats found themselves teetering on the brink. Would they give up or play the game they knew they were capable of?

Moe Pawlak and Aiyeh teamed up to answer the question with a statement. Pawlak worked the ball out of the corner and played a drop pass to Aiyeh, who fired in her second goal with about seven minutes remaining before the half.

Novi led 2-1 heading into the second half and quickly added

to their lead as Pawlak dribbled through two defenders and beat the Spartan goalie with a hard shot, which went high and into the corner for the score and the 3-1 advantage.

Seven minutes later, Novi sealed the victory with the 4-1 final. Stephanie Crawford showed her speed as she hustled after a Pawlak through ball and got past the goalie to put the ball into the empty net.

The victory raised the 'Cats overall record to 16-1 and a 10-0 showing in the Kensington Valley Conference.

The Wildcats topped Millford just a few days prior, beating them 11-0 in a game that was hardly a contest.

"Our movement, both with and without the ball, was much better," O'Leary noted, comparing the game to a matchup against South Lyon earlier in the week.

Multiple goals were scored by Kristi Timar, who had three and Aiyeh, who added two. Scoring a single tally each were Sarah Schmitt, Pawlak, Kellie Walker, Crawford, Nicole Barndt and Lauren Trotter. Timar also had two assists, as did Pawlak, while Nikki Hernandez, Walker, Aiyeh, Schmitt, Esbrook, Barndt and Trotter had one each.

Earning the shutout in the goal was Amanda Church.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or via email at seggleson@h.homecomm.net.

SPORTS SHORTS

Golf tournament auction features Ryder Cup tickets

Golfers at the Schoolcraft College Foundation Golf Classic can bid on two tickets to the 2004 Ryder Cup even though the tickets have been long sold out. The two weekly season tickets will enable the holders to attend all six days of the Ryder Cup matches Sept. 14-19, including the opening ceremonies on the grounds of Oakland Hills Country Club.

Schoolcraft's annual tournament raises funds for student scholarships and for instructional initiatives. Participants will enjoy 18 holes of golf at the private Walnut Creek Country Club in South Lyon.

Individual golfers can register for the 10:30 a.m. shotgun start for \$250. The price includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, access to the driving range and putting green, continental breakfast, lunch, banquet dinner, awards, prizes and a live auction. Sponsor packages range from \$350 to sponsor a hole up to \$6,000 for a golfer gift sponsorship.

For more information or to register, phone 734-462-4400 ext. 5908. Schoolcraft College is located at 8600 Haggerty Road, between Six and Seven Mile roads, just west of I-275.

U8 and U12 House league baseball tournament

The Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton, located at 4415 Michigan Avenue, is offering a Spring Learn to Skate program for various levels of instruction. The time is held on Tuesdays or Thursdays, classes for Leona to Skate will be held on Thursday and Saturday. A new adult class is starting this session on Thursday from 6-7. All classes are eight weeks ending June 5th, 2004.

Call (248) 487-7777 for more information.

Learn to skate/tot time

The Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton, located at 4415 Michigan Avenue, is offering a Spring Learn to Skate program for various levels of instruction. The time is held on Tuesdays or Thursdays, classes for Leona to Skate will be held on Thursday and Saturday. A new adult class is starting this session on Thursday from 6-7. All classes are eight weeks ending June 5th, 2004.

Call (248) 487-7777 for more information.

Summer baseball/softball camps

Total Baseball/Softball will hold their baseball and softball summer camps on the following dates: June 14-16 at Powers Park in Novi and June 21-23 at Northville's Community Park. All camps will run from 9 a.m. through 1 p.m. and are for ages 7-17.

Professional players and college coaches will instruct kids on the proper techniques of pitching, hitting and fielding. Kids will also be clocked on a radar gun for arm speed. The cost of the camps are \$135 each.

For more information or to register, call (248) 668-0166 or email: totalballwixom@aol.com. Please visit www.total-baseball.com for further details.

S softball tryouts

Softball tryouts for the Girls' Fastpitch Summer Incredible League, varsity and junior varsity, will be June 7 at 5 p.m. at the Northville High School gymnasium. Rain day will be June 8 from 8:30 a.m. until noon while girls who will be of high school age for the 2004-05 school year are eligible to play. This includes current 8th through 11th graders.

For more information, contact Jim Long during the day at (248) 349-0373 and evenings at (248) 349-5246.

Compiled by Sam Eggleston

FATHER'S DAY is Sunday, June 20th

This year...Delight your Dad

by winning him 4 tickets to the

Tigers Game June 27th

Here's To The KING Of The Castle

Do you have a special Dad? In just 200 words or less, let us know why your Dad deserves to win 4 tickets to the Tigers Game. Write your letter and mail by June 7th with the form below to:

Hometown Newspapers
c/o Best Dad
101 N. Lafayette
South Lyon, MI 48178

Best Dad • Win 4 tickets to Tigers Game 6/27/04

Enclose this entry form along with your letter of 200 words or less and be eligible to win. DEADLINE June 7, 2004

Dad's Name _____
Your Name _____
Your Address _____
Your Phone _____

Hometown Newspapers
c/o Best Dad
101 N. Lafayette
South Lyon, MI 48178

Boys' track team sends six to finals

Continued from B1

Pritchard hurled the discus an applaud-worthy 152-foot-1-inch for the top spot in the remarkably competitive regional meet.

Also qualifying for the lower peninsula Division I state finals was the 4-by-200 relay sprint team of David Woods and Yui all combined their talents along with Brandon Coles to finish with a time of 1:32.20 for a second-place finish at the regional.

For six Novi Wildcat athletes, their track season has been extended another two weeks' Smith said.

Unfortunately, that isn't the case for all of the impressive showings put forth by various Wildcats.

Mark Saurer, for example, had a nice performance in the 300 hurdles and took home a third-place finish for his efforts. He missed going to states by

just one position and Yui was right on its tail.

Other medal winners included Trent Sitson in the 400 with a run of 51.04 seconds; Pritchard in the shot put with a throw of 46-4; and the 4-by-800 relay team of Mark DeFresne, Spencer Ornes, Kirk Miller and Nick Preketes, which took fifth.

Dan Coleman tied for sixth in the pole vault with an 11-3 mark and the 4-by-400 team earned a time of 3:29.54 — a shave of about six seconds off their previous season best.

Sophomore Chris Alberty was close to making it into the finals of the high hurdles as he took eighth in 16.20 seconds.

Sam Eggleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or by e-mail at seggleson@h.homecomm.net.

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 28

AMC LAUREL PARK 734-462-2000	AMC LIVONIA 20 734-462-9800	AMC FORUM 30 508-354-5000
EMAGINE NOVI 248-351-5252	MAIR SOUTHGATE 30 734-284-1500	CANTON 10 734-284-1500
STAR FAIRLANE 734-284-5252	SHOWCASE DEARBORN 734-284-1500	PHOENIX AT DEL AIR CENTRE 313-488-2400
STAR JOHN A RT 14 MILE 734-284-5252	STAR GARROT AT 15 MI 734-284-1500	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING 516-708-1500
STAR TAYLOR 734-281-1200	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS 734-284-1500	STAR SOUTHWIELD 516-708-1500
	WALCOMMERCE STADIUM 734-284-1500	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING 516-708-1500

NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED

"THE SUMMER'S FIRST GREAT COMEDY IS HERE!"

THE HILARIOUS FEEL-GOOD COMEDY WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL YEAR!

"KATE HUDSON WILL STEAL YOUR HEART!"

RAISING HELEN IS FUNNY AND HAS HEART!

KATE HUDSON

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'RUNAWAY BRIDE' & 'PRETTY WOMAN'

STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 28

AMC LIVONIA 20 734-284-1500	PHOENIX AT DEL AIR CENTRE 313-488-2400	AMC LAUREL PARK 734-462-2000
STAR SOUTHGATE 30 734-284-1500	STAR GARROT AT 15 MI 734-284-1500	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING 516-708-1500
STAR FAIRLANE 734-284-5252	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS 734-284-1500	STAR SOUTHWIELD 516-708-1500
STAR TAYLOR 734-281-1200	WALCOMMERCE STADIUM 734-284-1500	STAR GREAT LAKES CROSSING 516-708-1500

NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED

UNDERCLASSMAN SCORES

Junior varsity softball

On May 14th, the JV softball team split its contests with Brighton winning the first game 5-2 behind the excellent pitching of Brittany Luka and some timely hitting by Stephanie Jirasek and Cassie Gordon. The next day, the team went to the Walled Lake Northern Tournament making it to the round of eight. The team won its first three contests defeating Bloomfield Lasher 6-4, Walled Lake Northern 2-0 and Mercy High School 8-0. Burris had victories in two games after being called up from the Freshman team, and Brittany Luka was victorious in the contest against Walled Lake Northern giving up only two hits. Cassie Gordon was the hit-

ting star for the tournament going 7-for-15 with five RBIs.

The team also split with Salen, winning the first game 6-2 behind the fine pitching of Brittany Luka and some timely hitting of Luka and Jenny Heartfield. Casey Heals also had a fine game both in the field and at the plate. Wednesday Novi defeated South Lyon twice. Alyssa Roland was the winning pitcher in both contests. For the week, the softball team finished with a record of 7-3.

Freshman softball

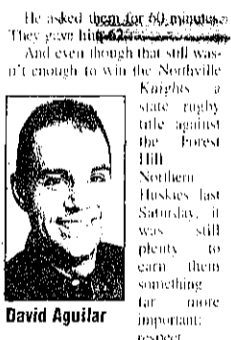
The freshman softball team split a doubleheader with South Lyon losing the first game 2-1 and winning the second game

Compiled by Sam Eggleston



RUFFIANS

Saturday Knights still special, despite falling short of state rugby title



David Aguilar

They gave them for 60 minutes. And even though that still wasn't enough to win the Northville Knights' state rugby title against the Forest Hill Huskies last Saturday, it was still plenty to earn them something far more important: respect.

True, Saturday's effort was not the Knights' most exemplary. Head coach Ron Cornell was the first to admit that. The Knights dropped the ball when they should have carried it, ran with it when they should have set up for tactical position.

Cornell was the first to admit

that the Knights' loss had more to do with squandered opportunities and costly mistakes than slippery field conditions or a two-hour drive to the Huskies' western Michigan home field.

Still, the seventh-year coach said his team's second half performance epitomized his team's season-long effort. They never gave up.

"These kids fought all game long," Cornell said. "They could have easily given up, but they didn't."

They didn't give up when the Huskies jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead at 27:19 of the first half, nor when they expanded that lead to 10-0 two minutes later.

With a minute left in the first half, the Knights were looking up at a 18-0 deficit. Things just never came easy during an afternoon when even the wind change negated what was previously thought to be a passing and kicking advantage, a team starts to wonder: is this really in the cards?

ball possession," Cornell said. "But we just had a case of the droopies in the first half. We couldn't hold onto the ball."

Cornell could have blamed the field conditions. Or even the long, early morning drive. But he didn't.

He said the Huskies didn't do anything his team was not already expecting.

"Nothing," Cornell said. "They played good rugby, but they didn't surprise us at all. We just couldn't keep anything going."

'Ruff' way to go

Except for team determination, that is.

The Knights could have easily rolled up during a second half that seemed a lot like the first. During an afternoon when even the wind change negated what was previously thought to be a passing and kicking advantage, a team starts to wonder: is this really in the cards?

Still, the Knights never quit. Instead they scrapped their way to their first try at 15:59, followed by a successful two-point conversion. A second try with no time left on the clock made the score a suddenly reachable 18-12.

Even the ensuing failed conversion left the Knights within striking distance as the teams played out penalty time. But it just wasn't meant to be.

Cornell was disappointed. But proud. The club team that had been practicing since January and that finished as the state's second best team had nothing to hang its head about, he said.

"I am proud of this team. I am proud of our seniors," he said. "They could have easily quit. But they hung in there and kept battling right to the end. I am proud of them."

And in the end, that counts for something. Looking back, it's not always the final score people remember. Sometimes it's how willing you were to battle along the way, how well you managed the "ruff" when push came to shove.

Sometimes losing is simply

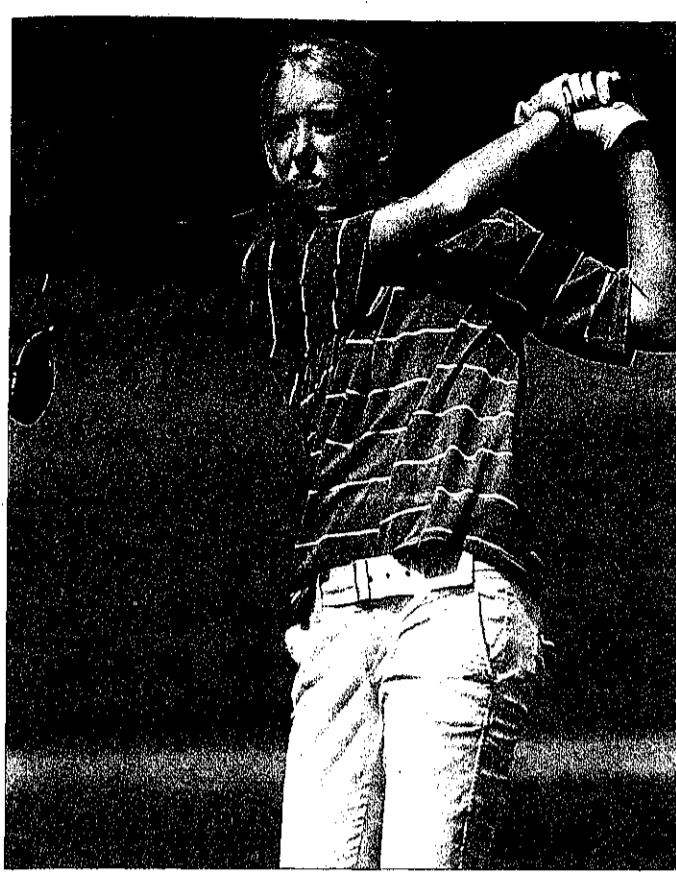
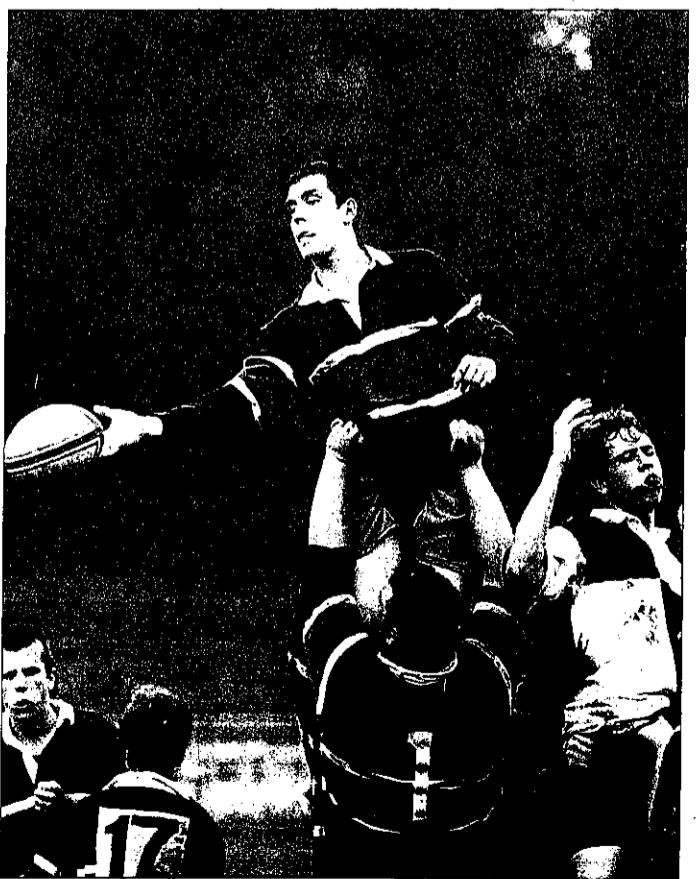


David Aguilar is the Northville Record editor. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102. Or by daguilar@hometown.com.

PHOTOS BY DAVID AGUILAR/NORTHVILLE RECORD EDITOR



Top: A.J. Morris tried to run through the Forest Hills Northern defense last week. Above right: The 2004 Northville Knights. Left: Mike Subu was determined to carry some of the workload last Saturday against the Huskies. Below: The Knights had difficulty finding running room during last Saturday's state title game. Right: The Knights lifted themselves back into contention, then fell, 18-12.



Nov's Jessica Westfall tees off on the second hole of the River Bank golf course on Ten Mile Road in a recent match against Ann Arbor Huron.

Wildcats can't get last dual win against KVC foe

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It couldn't really get much closer than what it did.

The Novi Wildcats golf team, which is coached by Deb Harris, narrowly missed topping Kensington Valley Conference rival Hartland May 18. Instead, the squad fell in a very competitive 185-188.

The Wildcats, which fell to 4-2 overall in the league to take third place, found Laura Vaughn and Becca Hughes both having

impressive showings with 45 each. Jennifer McKenna wasn't far behind, shooting a 47 in the losing effort, while Jessica Westfall notched a 51. Shooting but not being scored was Jackie Chudy, who recorded a 56.

"This was our lowest score this season for a par 36 course," Harris noted.

In exhibition play, the Wildcats had a slightly better showing against their Eagle counterparts and beat them 150-155.

Audrey Oh shot an impressive 46 in the outing while Lindsey

Haskell notched a 52 as did Brenna Quinley. Sarah Celeksi shot a 59 on the day.

The Wildcats and Hartland Eagles were able to put together enough players for a second exhibition game to give their younger players some experience.

Hartland won the second exhibition showing, 161-176. Ashley Simms led the squad for Novi, shooting a 53 while Missy Broadwell carded a 58. Erica Takeda shot a 65 and Yoo-jin Kim notched a 68.

It's a Sisson thing

Trent, Brad and Allie Sisson enjoy running difficult 400-meter race

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's a 400-meter dash thing. Trenton, Allie and Brad Sisson aren't sure you'd understand. Heck, most people wouldn't.

The 400-meter dash is one of those events that falls into a void of track meets. The sprinters think it's too long to run and the distance guys think it's too short to put their effort to. Field event participants? No one even bothered to ask them.

Instead, it takes a rare breed of athlete that looks to run the 400 and, even rarer, enjoy it.

"We hold our own," Trent Sisson said when asked how well he and his little brother Brad and sister Allie do in the 400. "It's a great event and all of us enjoy running it."

So it's obviously something that comes through their veins. Trent, who is a senior, was a natural fit for it.

"I just got into it," he said. "I'm not fast enough to be a sprinter and I'm not going to be running the 800 or the mile." This is just the median in between.

For Brad, a sophomore, the event was just something he

found interesting.

"I thought I'd try it and I've enjoyed it," he said. "You've got to know how to run it to be successful."

And all three of the Sissons use the same technique. Come out of the blocks hard, burning themselves for the first 100 before notching it down just slightly for the straight stretch. Around the corner, they can feel the burn in their muscles and chest before giving it the remainder of their energy for the final stretch of track beneath their feet.

"It's so tiring," said Allie, a freshman who is already making her mark in the event. "No matter how exhausted you are while running, you know that when you cross the line you can go down and rest for a while. So you go out and give it everything you've got and you know you can't stop until you've crossed the finish line."

Though Allie can't run with the guys, she and her two brothers share a passion for the event as well as the 4-by-800 relay that all three participate in.

Brad and Trent make a point to cheer on their little sibling while she runs, reminding her to pump

her arms and lift her knees while running and cheering her on with shouts of encouragement to keep her going.

"They help each other as well. Brad chases Trent and Trent does his damndest to keep ahead of his little brother."

"He's close," Trent said of his little brother gaining on him. "I still have him by a second or two. Hopefully it lasts the rest of the year so he can't say he ever beat me."

Brad disagrees. In fact, he's hoped for the complete opposite.

"He makes me push myself to be even more competitive," he said. "It makes me want to beat him all that much more so I can rub it in his face. That's the beauty of a sibling rivalry."

And the beauty of the 400. For many, they'll just never get it. For the Sissons, getting it was one of the best things that has ever happened in their athletic careers.

It's not a 400-meter dash thing after all. It's a Sisson thing.



Trent, Allie, and Brad Sisson, siblings and all Novi Wildcat athletes.

'Cats take loss

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It was only their fourth of the season, but it was readily apparent that the Novi Wildcats lacrosse team was against a much more proficient foe in their loss last week.

The Wildcats were blasted with a 15-2 loss against Cranbrook last week.

Cranbrook, which is ranked third in the state, showed the Wildcats that though they can run with the big dogs for the most part, the top teams in the state were ranked that way for a reason.

Cranbrook scored five unanswered goals in the first quarter of play and added five more unanswered tallies in the second quarter to take a 10-0 lead heading into the half.

Coming out of the break, they added number 11 before Novi's Jeff Policicchio finally answered with two consecutive goals, assisted by John Favre and Jimmy McCusker, respectively.

The third quarter spurt was all the Wildcats were able to muster as Cranbrook went on the score three more before the end of the third and one in the fourth for the final 15-2 score.

Novi is now 9-4 on the year.

<p>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD High & Main Street, Northville 1 Lubock Pastor Church 369-5142 School 349-1145 Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Services of 11:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p>BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA 1014 N. Main St. Northville, MI 48161 Pastor: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt Worship: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.</p>
<p>MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48240 Morning Worship 10 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m. 248-362-7757 Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt Director of Music: Patricia Kull</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH 200 E. Main St. of Huron (483) 349-0911 Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Parish Office: 349-0911 Catholic Activities of All Services You are invited to all services. All are welcome. Single People Ministry - Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Rev. James J. Buzan, Pastor</p>
<p>CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican) 10 Mile between Fern & Back, Novi Phone 349-1176 Sun. 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Sunday School & Nursery 10 a.m. Rev. Karen Harris, Pastor www.churchoftheholycross.com</p>	<p>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 9 Mile & Meadowbrook Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class 8:45 a.m. Rev. James J. Buzan, Pastor Phone 349-0911</p>
<p>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 44443 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345 1/2 mile west of Novi Rd. Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Sunday</p>	<p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 346-1147 8 Mile & Fern Roads Worship Services: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Rev. Jeff M. Hove, Pastor</p>
<p>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 46320 W. 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48240 Solely 5:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Rev. Joseph George, Pastor Phone: 349-1176</p>	<p>OAK POINTE CHURCH Northville High School on 6 Mile 770 Third Northville Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Casual contemporary live band (248) 615-7050</p>
<p>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY 24501 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48240 Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Holy Days: 9 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Fr. Paul Ballen, Associate Pastor Phone: 349-1176</p>	<p>HARVEST FELLOWSHIP 49339 Pontiac Trail Warren 248-926-8332 Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>
<p>WORLDWIDE HARVEST CHURCH "A Reach to Grow" Pastor: Keith J. McCas Sunday Worship Services: 11:00 AM 1st Sunday in May: 10:00 AM (and 12:00 PM) Main Office: (248) 919-2897 E-mail: Reception@worldwidechurch.com Web: www.worldwidechurch.com</p>	<p>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH Between Grand River & Freedom 248-474-0584 Summer Semester 9:15 traditional, 11:00 Contemporary Doug Davis, Pastor Stephen Blackwell, Intern</p>
<p>WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH James M. McCreary Senior Pastor 47324 W. Redwood, Northville, MI 48166 Traditional Services: 8:00, 10:15, 11:30 a.m. Contemporary Services: 12:00 p.m. Sunday School & Nursery Programs Senior Center: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Service: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p>CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH Pastor: Darryl L. Langley Traditional Services - 9:00 A.M. Contemporary Services - 10:30 A.M. Meeting at Novi Civic Center 248-444-7755 crosspointemeadows.org</p>

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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

6B

Novi News

Thursday, May 27, 2004

Keeping the lid on the cookie jar

Although not reported in the news, there must have been a mad rush for the medicine cabinet by Arizona lawmakers whose fingers got smashed when someone slammed the lid on a cookie jar filled with workers' compensation money.

Attempting to swipe some \$50 million from the State Compensation Fund to cover their budget abyss, Grand Canyon State legislators found themselves peering into an even bigger hole when Superior Court Judge Rebecca



Jack Faris

Albrecht denied access to the cash, saying such light-fingeredness would violate the state's constitution. Employers are required by law to pay for workers' compensation insurance that covers medical care, rehabilitation and lost wages of those injured on the job. The judge's ruling reaffirmed the claim by NFIB, other small-business groups, and the Arizona State Compensation Fund that the money is to be held in trust for the fund's policyholders and should not be viewed as a source of rainy-day cash to paper over mismanaged state budgets.

Thanks to an up tick in the nation's economy, the fiscal fiascos facing many states won't be quite as foreboding as they were in recent years. Tax revenues have returned some funds to depleted coffers and more than half of the states are reporting surpluses, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Helping too were federal bailouts of \$20 billion that brought temporary relief, although many legislators complain that lots of their financial problems are caused by fallout from Washington, D.C.-imposed tax cuts, unfunded mandates and east-shifting in key areas such as healthcare.

Come June 30, those federal funds will be no more, and legislators in many states, having failed to make the tough decisions during a breathing period, are again peering into every nook, cranny and cash box for currency. Fiscal year 2005 isn't going to be a time for tea and crumpets for many of them. Cumulative gaps of between \$36 billion and \$40 billion are said to be building among more than 30 states.

Taxpayers in these states can expect higher taxes, spending cuts, renewed efforts to borrow and dips into reserves and more sleights-of-hand trickery such as that attempted in Arizona, and in other states with well-managed workers' compensation funds.

Small-business owners, major contributors to such trust funds, are accustomed to monitoring their cash registers, balancing their budgets and making the hard decisions. It's unfortunate that they must also keep a wary eye on their state's treasury, fearing the sticky fingers of politicians who give the nod to every tax-funded idea that comes along.

Judge Albrecht is to be commended for quickly closing the Arizona State Compensation Fund cookie jar. She no doubt knew that some very important political fingers would get bruised, but was steadfast in her opposition, saying that these "are not public funds, but funds held in trust... for the employer and ultimately for injured employees and their families..."

Small-business owners should perk up their ears for the telltale rattling of cookie-jar lids as state lawmakers search for goodies to meet their July 1 budget deadlines.

Jack Faris is president of NFIB (the National Federation of Independent Business), the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. NFIB represents the views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information visit www.NFIB.com.

Story idea?

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

Send it to:

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Advertorial



Photos by HAL GOULD

Chris Meredith, owner of Your Nesting Place in Milford, offers the comforts of home in a wide variety of colors and patterns. The store is located at 332 N. Main St. in downtown Milford.

Your Nesting Place offers comfort, style

By Annette Jaworski
SPECIAL WRITER

Chris Meredith follows only one hard and fast rule when it comes to design - and that's to expect the unexpected.

"We like to keep them guessing," explains the owner of Your Nesting Place in Milford. "I like to push the edge of what's in."

Come see what robin's egg blue looks like on a wall, or a leopard print crown moulding - maybe even dare to try it at home.

"We just came out of a period where everything was earth tones. Now we're moving back to some exciting bright colors," she explained.

As a designer, Chris Meredith refuses to be pigeonholed into a safe category, and has developed a faithful following who've discovered her fun and refreshing approach to design.

Now clients can enjoy more of a good thing with double the space at their new location in the center of downtown on Main Street in Milford.

"It's bigger, it's brighter and it's easier to display stuff," she explained.

That sign with the overstuffed chair is symbolic of the store - laid back, comfy and inviting. Those comfortable seats are one of the first things customers notice in Your Nesting Place. There are sofas, love seats, overstuffed chairs and ottomans in tapestry, leather, olive green and even plum. There are thousands of fabric selections so clients can find that perfect match.

Because of their recently expanded facilities, they can feature an even larger display of Flexsteel merchandise, which is the backbone of their merchan-

dise. Much of the charm of Your Nesting Place lies in its relaxed ambience. Customers might come in to a dish of chocolates or beverage. Meredith's dog, Sarah, might offer a friendly welcome.

They even open doors between their neighbors "Some Gals," so that customers can pass back and forth between both stores. They would love nothing better than for customers to have a little fun and break out of their comfort zone while they're at it.

"I'd like to think the attitude is something like Cheers... we remember what you bought last time, and we'll remember your name," said Meredith.

True to her free spirit, she warns that her sales are at a whim.

"So if you see it advertised, it's a big deal. When we have one, you better show up."

There are also bi-annual Flexsteel sales, a product she feels is an exceptional value, and of course Milford Memories and Sidewalk Sale time.

Meredith uses the same approach to her merchandise, where she focuses mainly on one-of-a-kind pieces.

"If you see it, you better buy it, because it might be gone, and I don't know if I will get more of that item in stock," said Meredith. On the flip side, she promises there's new stuff every day, so there's always something fresh and new to inspire.

"It's a good show place. People can come in and get ideas," she added. The creative crew makes it easy for customers, because items are placed in groupings, so they can imagine how it looks when it's all put together.

"I want people to look at this

and say, 'I can do this,'" said Meredith. "My new mantra is 'get inspired, be creative, I've been following that a lot more.'"

Indeed, many clients make regular visits to see what's new and for a little design inspiration.

Another fun way they encourage client's sense of style is by tagging certain merchandise as "favorite things." It's their equivalent of the Oprah picks, some of Chris Meredith's favorite items including rugs, tables, and more.

As a service to her clientele she also keeps a "wish list" where they can request a certain type of merchandise.

"We'll look for something to see if maybe we can get it for them," she added. Another great way to take advantage of their creative genius includes their design services.

A member of the design crew, Jeanne Imboden notes "We're here to please."

Searching for new and innovative merchandise is literally a seven-days-a-week job for Meredith. It comes from a variety of sources - exactly where is part of the mystique that keeps customers coming back. Some items are from vendors and purchasing trips or hunted down at antique runs and estate sales. Part of the fun is combining the old with the new, just like any home.

Although it was a challenge to meet their opening date, they met their goals with flying colors. She credits builders, Tim and Paul Brandt and decorative painter, Dolores Carlton. But most of all, she appreciates her partners in design, who contribute their own dimension of style and make the store what it is today. That includes Jeanne Imboden, Sandi Hinzmann,

Nancy Hitzmann and Holly Brandt.

"I wouldn't have believed it's possible. But I knew I had to move if I wanted to grow the business I had to do something."

Meredith notes that she believes in dealing honestly with her customers, and won't mark up merchandise in lieu of "big savings" later. "We're fair in our

pricing," she said.

Your Nesting Place's new location is at 332 North Main St. in downtown Milford. To go along with the newly expanded facilities are expanded business hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call (248) 685-7314.

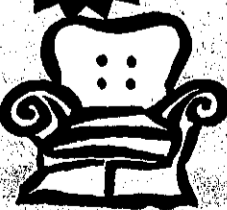


Your Nesting Place is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

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