



Novi News



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City will explore grant money for Villagewood

Residents want part of property to be parkland

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Applause broke out during the June 20 council meeting when Novi residents learned the city will explore the possibility of obtaining a Michigan Department

of Natural Resources grant to purchase land for a park in their neighborhood.

William Roskelly of Basney & Smith, a developer in Livonia, is proposing Villagewood, a development with 10 homes costing about \$400,000 each on part of 15 acres of property east of Meadowbrook Road between Nine and 10 Mile roads.

At the June 8 planning commission meeting in Novi, members voted to approve the development with various conditions and wanted city council to pursue MDNR grant money to turn about seven



"I think we would have a slim chance of obtaining this grant."

Laura Lorenzo
Novi City Council

acres of the land into a park. Council Member Laura Lorenzo said that there was not enough time for the city to obtain land appraisals and jump through all of the hoops necessary, howev-

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9 Mile work to begin in August

Engineers meet with residents, businesses about project

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

City officials met with residents and business owners near Nine Mile Road last week to give them details about the upcoming reconstruction of this major Novi Road costing about \$1.2 million.

Plans are to repave the road from Novi Road to Meadowbrook Road in the near future.

Rob Hayes, city engineer, was joined by engineering consultants Dave Eno and Karen Ellis from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, and Sheryl Walsh of City of Novi Community Relations Department.

The Wixom/196 interchange is back in the Senate budget. Please see the story on page 5A.

Nine Mile Road is in rough condition now, and this was a project that was originally earmarked for 2004. But because of all the other projects going on in Novi with the Road Commission for Oakland County, specifically Grand River Avenue/Novi Road and 10 Mile/Novi Road, the city deferred the project to this year.

"This is going to be an important project for the city," Hayes said. He added that the project will improve that stretch of road and make businesses happier along Nine Mile Road because they have a lot of trucks that use that route.

The design of the project is about 90 percent completed, according to Hayes. The project should go out for bids in July once the design plans are finished in about a week or two. The city hopes to have a contractor by early August.

"We're waiting for the Meadowbrook Bridge project to be completed, which is targeted for Aug. 18," Hayes said. Incentives are in place for this project as they were for the I-96/Novi Road ramp project. On the bridge work, the contractor will receive \$4,000 a day for each day under the completion deadline.

The city is looking at about a six-week construction time frame, which means Nine Mile should be repaved by late September or early October.

The road is about two-thirds concrete and one-third asphalt. The concrete portion just east of Novi Road will be replaced with new curb and gutter work

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Purr-fect season!

The Wildcats' bench, including Jamle Fratto (#20), bursts onto the field as Novi claims its state finals championship and an undefeated season in soccer last Saturday. See complete coverage in this week's sports section (B).

Two administrators retiring? No, not really

Koster and Davis saving district money

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Two Novi Community School administrators are doing their part to save the district some money by retiring....but then sticking

around afterwards.

Nancy Davis, assistant superintendent of instructional services and Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance, are taking advantage of a service, in which



J. Koster



N. Davis

they will officially retire from the state teacher retirement system but continue to work in the district doing the same jobs.

Bob Schram, executive

worked for at least 30 years, he or she can go out and work for a personal services company for retired administrators. The district, in turn, can bring them back in to work in the same capacity but not have to pay health care and retirement costs.

"They're not an employee of the school district, but they can fully work and get paid at this other company with no impact on

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9/11 memorial to honor Novi's long-standing fire chief

Location may be city hall or Novi Road and Grand River Ave.

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The city of Novi will soon become the proud owner of a

bronze statue commemorating the heroic efforts of firefighters in New York City during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, as well as Novi's long-standing fire chief, Art Lenaghan.

Lynne Paul, council member, informed council at the June 20 meeting that a bronze statue depicting firefighters carrying a victim to safety will be donated to the city as a 9/11 memorial by The Landon Companies of Bloomfield Hills.

Dixie Marble of Novi has agreed to donate the limestone base to support the statue. Providence Hospital will contribute the landscaping around the statue. Anthony Concrete of Novi will donate the stamped concrete and sidewalk around the statue, and Simcheck Sod Installation of Howell may donate the irrigation system for the landscaping.

The statue was created by artist Timothy P. Schmalz from

Kitchener, Ontario. Paul learned of Schmalz from Father Richard Elmer, president of Catholic Central High School.

Paul paid Elmer a visit recently at school's present location in Redford and learned about the artist, who will be creating statues for the school's new home in Novi. He showed Paul photographs of his work, and she was so impressed that she inquired about him possibly creating a statue for the city.

Elmer told Schmalz of Paul's interest in a piece of art for Novi, and he contacted her the same day.

The Landon Companies is a real estate development company based in Bloomfield Hills, according to Jason Wagner, vice president. He said the company was enthusiastic about honoring the hard work of firefighters on Sept. 11, 2001, and Novi's fire

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Map: Brighton & American Harley Davidson & Buell

Residents want part of property to be parkland

continued from front page

er, in time for the Aug. 1 deadline on the MDNR grant.

Plus, the MDNR grant would only pay for 75 percent of the fair market value of the land, meaning that the city or residents would have to purchase the other 25 percent of the property.

City council members questioned whether the city would be able to make the grant deadline and how good its chances were in obtaining a grant in a competitive market.

"I think we would have a slim chance of obtaining this grant," Lorenzo said.

The council instructed members of city administration to explore the cost involved in obtaining the required professional appraisals on the land, whether grant writers and consultants McKenna & Associates in Northville can prepare documents in time for the Aug. 1 deadline, and to see if Roskelley can talk to his partners about possibly donating 25 percent of the land.

Council Member Lyne Paul suggested that council have a special meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 27, to discuss applying for the MDNR grant that could turn the seven acres into parkland.

City charter states that two members of council or the mayor can call for a special meeting with a minimum of 18 hours notice.

The administration has been instructed by council to research the matter and provide information in today's city-week council packet. Council members will make a decision after receiving the information whether or not to schedule the special meeting.

Paul noted that 23 residents in her subdivision — Westmont Village south of 10 Mile and east of Tait Road — recently purchased property in the subdivision so that it could remain a conservation area and not be developed for 100 years.

She suggested a similar tactic might work for residents near the proposed VillageWood development near Meadowbrook and Nine Mile roads.

Location may be city hall or Novi Road and Grand River Ave.

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chief, who has been with the city for 27 years.

"Landon prides itself on being a good neighbor through cooperative efforts such as this. It is exciting to honor such an exceptional individual in an exceptional community," Wagner said. The statue's dimensions are 39 inches high by 44 inches wide by 32 inches deep, according to Wagner.

At the June 20 council meeting, members discussed placing the statue at either the south entrance to city hall or on the northeast corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue. However, the city is considering selling this small parcel of property at this corner to Novi Town Center Investors, Inc.

"We have to decide where it's going to go, because the landscape architect needs some direction," Paul said. Tentative plans are to dedicate the statue on Sept. 17.

"I think this is going to be a great asset to the city," said Council Member Kim Capello.

Follow Council Member Bob Gatt echoed these sentiments on the statue.

"It's beautiful, and it will be a fitting tribute to a pretty good guy," Gatt said.

City council will review a suitable site for the statue in the near future.

Courtesy photo

This statue, created by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz, will be dedicated to the city of Novi as a 9/11 memorial to the heroic efforts of firefighters during the terrorist attacks in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001, and to honor Novi's fire chief of 27 years, Art Lenaghan. The statue is slated to be dedicated in September.



Koster and Davis saving district money

continued from front page

cent. We also save health care benefits costs, which is usually about 15 percent of a person's salary."

In other words, by taking part in this program, Koster and Davis are saving the district 31 percent of their salaries each, which averages to about \$20,000 per employee, or \$40,000 total.

"It's a smart move to make, and there's no down side to it that we don't hope you're participating in," Schram said. "It's a win-win situation for everyone involved."

earning money by working for the private company, and they also got the pension that they've earned all along."

Davis and Koster will be receiving a salary, plus retirement. The district will pay the company for retired administrators for their service, who will in turn pay

Elementary School Principal Richard Njus and Technology Consultant Jim Fry.

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@ht.homecomm.net.

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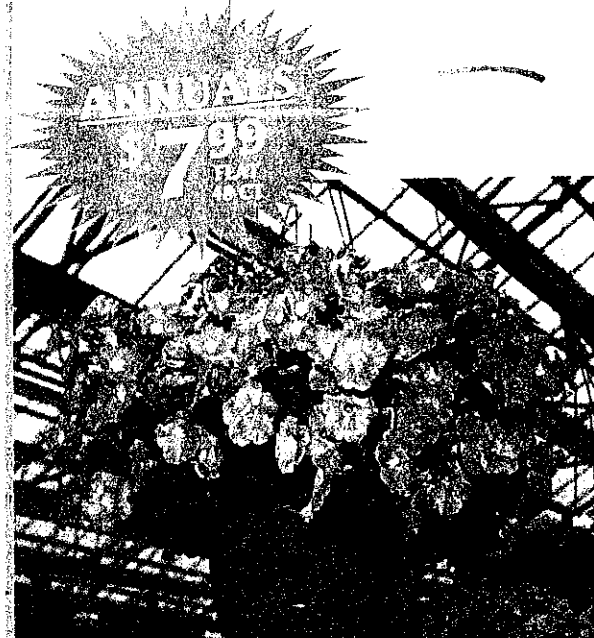
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PUBLIC SAFETY

9 Mile work starts in August

continued from front page

and widened to three lanes. The eastern end of Nine Mile Road near Meadowbrook Road will not be widened, but will be resurfaced with new asphalt.

Also as part of the project, Roethel Drive paving will be finished just east of the railroad tracks on Nine Mile Road. This road never received its final course of asphalt paving when it was built.

Most of the driveways off of Nine Mile will receive new curb and gutter.

The plan is to maintain westbound traffic at all times on Nine Mile Road and have a detour for eastbound traffic on Nine Mile throughout the project.

The alternate route will be south on Novi Road to Eight Mile Road and then north on Meadowbrook Road back to Nine Mile Road.

Fire Station #1 on Grand River Avenue east of Novi Road will cover the area on Nine Mile Road east of Roethel Drive during the construction.

All driveways and streets along Nine Mile Road will be open during the construction. The city is also working with CSX Railroad to improve the grade crossing at the tracks on Nine Mile Road.

Plans are to try to improve the boulevard entrance to Chase Farms subdivision on Nine Mile Road as part of this project.

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@h.homecomm.net.

Wixom Road/I96 interchange back in state Senate's budget

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) sponsored an amendment in the state Senate last week directing the Michigan Department of Transportation to complete reconstruction of the I-96 and Wixom Road interchange project.

If the budget bill can get through the House and Gov. Jennifer Granholm, the completion of this interchange could have a big impact on both traffic and commerce in Novi and the surrounding area.

"This is big news and good news," Cassis said June 17.

Cassis is confident that with her support, as well as Novi resident and Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche's, that the budget bill will receive approval in both the House and the Senate and be sent to Granholm for approval.

The state senator noted that not only is DeRoche from Novi, but he is also a member of the budget conference committee.

"This project echoes what he's been talking about as Speaker of the House," said Jason Brewer, spokesperson for DeRoche.

"That project is indicative of the kind of work we need to get back to doing, because it's in an area where people are choosing to create jobs, live and raise their families. We need to make sure that our infrastructure reflects those choices."

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and other Senate Republicans also support the reconstruction of the interchange.

Cassis said when the proposed budget reaches Granholm that the question becomes, "Is she going to be for jobs or for politics when she sees that we've restored the Wixom project?"

Right now, the interchange project is a done deal in the Senate transportation budget. The budget goes to conference committee with the House budget. What results will be voted on and sent to Granholm.

"I'm pretty sure it's (the I-96/Wixom Road interchange funding) going to stay on," Cassis said, adding that she has been trying to obtain state funding for this project since 1997.

According to Cassis, state funding for the I-96/Beck Road interchange and the I-96/Wixom Road interchange were conceived as one project in federal highway funding. Gov. Granholm, however, put a stop to the Wixom Road project.

The Beck Road interchange was to be done first, because both interchanges can't be shut down at the same time. The Beck Road project is supposed to be completed by November 2007.

"This is an important issue because Cassis said area developers are waiting for the Wixom interchange to be re-done before they proceed with plans.

"The Wixom Road corridor is ready for business expansion," Cassis said. "Economic development and new jobs are knocking on the door. The reconstruction project will ensure safe and efficient access for workers and for moving product. If we wait much longer, other areas will become more attractive to development."

Cassis said union members at Ford Motor Company's Wixom Assembly Plant, UAW Local 36, Wixom Road interchange. Although both Ford Motor Company officials and Dave Berry, president, Local 36, have gone on record that the plant is not scheduled to be closed, it has been rumored that Ford may shut down the facility.

In anticipation of the reconstruction of the Wixom Road and Beck Road interchanges, local and county governments invested heavily in preparations and road improvements at substantial cost. Private right-of-way donations also were committed, Cassis emphasized.

With Catholic Central High School and Chanel 56 Headteachers moving to the Wixom Road corridor in the near future, a new interchange at Wixom Road is even more necessary, Cassis said.

"And, with the new expo center nearing completion, we need two new interchanges," Cassis 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@h.homecomm.net.

Police wait for video on theft at jewelry store

By Pam Fleming STAFF WRITER

Although there are no current leads on the identity of a bold robber, who stole a \$18,000 ring from a Twelve Oaks Mall jewelry store last week, police are hopeful that the store's surveillance videotape will soon provide some clues.

At 10:59 a.m. on June 15, the Novi Police Department responded to a report of a theft at Bailey Banks & Biddle. A customer entered the jewelry store and asked to look at a diamond ring in a display case.

When the store employee handed the customer the ring, the subject took the ring and ran out of the store and the mall. An immediate search did not locate the subject or the diamond ring.

The one-to-two-carat diamond ring in a platinum setting is valued at more than \$18,000.

The subject is described as a black male in his 20s, about 6-feet 3-inches tall, weighing 150-170 pounds, with short hair, a goatee and an unkempt beard. He was wearing a striped or checkered polo-style shirt, denim shorts and white shoes at the time of the robbery. No escape vehicle has been identified.

The Novi Police Department is awaiting images from an enhanced videotape of the robbery provided by the store and Marshall Field's Department Store.

"They're going to send us photographs of the potential suspect," said Deputy Chief David Molloy. Police did learn that he may have been in the store a couple of days before the robbery and talked to one of the store's employees because he did ask for a worker by name when he asked to look at the ring.

"We believe he was in the store about two days before the robbery," he said.

If anyone has information regarding this incident, please contact Det. Kevin Gilmore, Novi Police Department, at (248) 347-0551.

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@h.homecomm.net.

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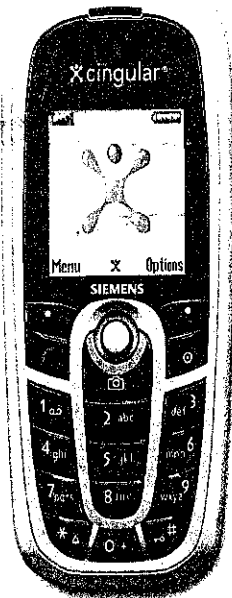
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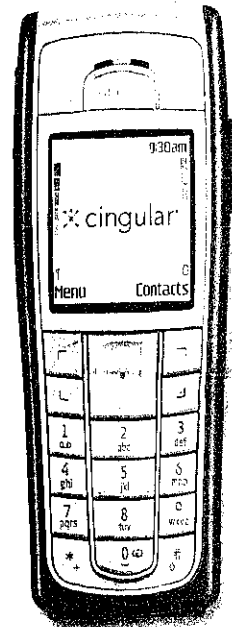
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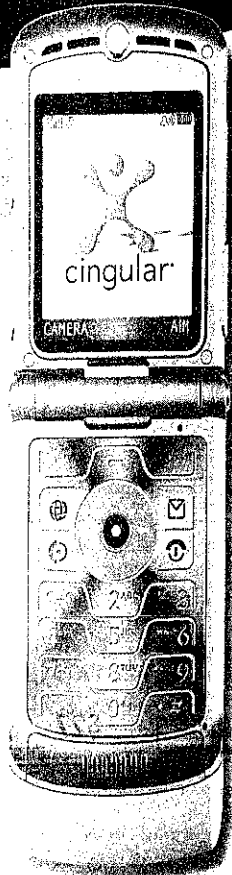
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I-96 ramp opens, but no left turns off 10 Mile

Motorists faced with more construction detours

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The ramp off westbound I-96 to Novi Road opened with much fanfare at 9 a.m. on June 17 — more than a week ahead of schedule. The timing of the completion could not have been better, with the ramp open in time for shoppers to have easy access to Novi shopping centers to purchase their Father's Day 2005 gifts and the July 4th Weekend and Novi 50's Festival just around the corner. But, the bloom was quickly off the rose, as the same day city officials learned that area motorists now have a new challenge while navigating Novi's roads — starting early this week, left turns are now prohibited from 10 Mile Road to Novi Road.

So, as Michigan Department of Transportation and city of Novi officials celebrated the opening of an improved major ramp off of Interstate 96, Road Commission for Oakland County handled motorists' bad news.

The prohibition of the left turns from 10 Mile Road to Novi Road, that RCOC reported on June 17 were scheduled to begin "Monday or Tuesday of this week," is necessary so their contractor can widen the last segment of the 10 Mile/Novi intersection.

The intersection improvement began in 2004, when workers widened two of the four approaches to the intersection. Officials halted work for the winter and resumed construction March 29 to finish the remaining two approaches.

Each approach will be widened to five lanes, so that each direction includes a left-turn lane, a through lane and a through-right-turn lane. Left turns onto Novi Road from 10 Mile Road will be prohibited for the duration of the project, which is expected to be completed by approximately mid-July.

Alternate north-south routes are Taft Road or Haggerty Road. Mendowbrook Road, another major north-south road in Novi, is still closed between Nine Mile Road and 10 Mile Road because of the reconstruction of Mendowbrook Bridge. The Novi Police Department asks citizens to not cut through the surrounding neighborhoods off of Mendowbrook Road during the bridge work.

The total project cost of the 10 Mile/Novi Road project is about \$6 million, with 80 percent funded through a Michigan Transportation Economic Development Fund Category C grant.

The TEDF is comprised of state and federal funds. Category C grants go to projects that relieve congestion caused by economic development. The remaining 20 percent of the project cost is being split evenly between RCOC and city of Novi.

The contractor for the project is Dan's Excavating of Shelby Township. This section of 10 Mile Road in Novi carries about 21,000 vehicles per day. The section of Novi Road affected by the widening project carries about 27,000 vehicles per day.

At opening ceremonies June 17 for the I-96 ramp at Novi Road, City Manager Rick Helwig, Mayor Lou Cordas, and other city of Novi officials praised the contractor, Angelo Lafra Construction Company, headquartered in Warren.

Helwig noted that the project supervisor stayed at the DoubleTree Hotel in Novi for two weeks until the project was completed. The contractor received a \$50,000 incentive (\$5,000 per day) for finishing the project early, a lot of which will likely go toward overtime for the workers who were

ALTERNATE ROUTES

Left turns onto Novi Road from 10 Mile Road will be prohibited for the duration of the project, which is expected to be completed by approximately mid-July. Alternate north-south routes are Taft Road or Haggerty Road.

on the job seven days a week. "The only time they weren't working was when weather didn't allow it," said Will Matheis, MDOT safety engineer.

"We were 100 percent pleased with the project and working with the city of Novi," Matheis said. "We had good communication between the city of Novi and local businesses affected by the ramp closure) throughout the project."

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

Novi man charged in several break-ins

Jason Gnatek, 33, of Novi, was arraigned in 52-1 District Court in Novi June 17 on eight counts involving possession of another person's credit card and checkbook, theft and breaking into vehicles.

Gnatek was formally charged with two counts of financial transaction device for using other people's credit cards, a felony in which he could be sentenced to four years in jail for each count.

He was also charged with four counts of stolen property, second offense, a misdemeanor that carries a one-year sentence for each count.

"The Novi resident was then charged with two counts of breaking and entering a vehicle, second offense, a misdemeanor punishable by a one year in jail for each charge. Deputy Chief David Molloy said that a Novi homeowner

called police when she saw Gnatek asleep about 9 one morning in her GMC Envoy parked outside her home. Police arrived, woke him up and found his car parked a few doors away with multiple items of stolen property in the vehicle.

Molloy noted that Novi police had a few larceny from auto complaints, mostly from unlicensed vehicles. But, as a result of identifying Gnatek and the work of Novi detectives, police were able to solve larceny from auto crimes in Novi, Livonia and Harrison Township.

"He has a very extensive criminal history for dangerous drugs, receiving and concealing stolen property, larceny and embezzlement," said Molloy. Gnatek was scheduled for a preliminary exam in the case at 52-1 District Court yesterday.

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COMMUNITY

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@ht.honcom.net

Novi doctor to the rescue

Dan Rosenberg saves Piston fan's life

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

If the Detroit Pistons win the National Basketball Association's Larry O'Brien trophy tonight, they will most likely be regarded as heroes around these parts. But on June 14, the real hero was in the stands.

Dan Rosenberg, a Novi pediatrician, was enjoying an NBA finals game between the Pistons and the San Antonio Spurs at the Palace of Auburn Hills that night when he heard much commotion coming from a nearby section of the stadium during the second quarter. After realizing that a man was in trouble health-wise, Rosenberg leaped out of his chair and ran to the rescue.

standing up and looking like they needed help," Rosenberg said. "There was a guy slumped in his chair, and I had a feeling he was in trouble, so I went over there."

When Rosenberg arrived, another doctor, Todd Marcus, was already on the scene checking the man's pulse and vitals, and the two had been classmates at Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills.

The man had no pulse, so the doctors decided to begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"We moved him down to the ground," Rosenberg said. "I did chest compressions, and Dr. Marcus did mouth-to-mouth resuscitation for about three or four minutes, and then his breathing and pulse came back. Then the cavalry came in and swooped him away, and he survived."

"I really just feel like my instincts took over, and I needed to go down there and I just went," Rosenberg added. "I was thinking about any consequences, just that I had to help this guy. It seemed like there was a lot of

people watching, but I was very focused on what we were doing."

Marcus and Rosenberg grew up together and hadn't really kept in touch over the years, so it was just a coincidence that the two ended up helping a fellow citizen.

After the incident, Rosenberg stressed the importance of learning CPR.

"You don't have to be a doctor to do CPR," he said. "There are CPR classes available through most hospital systems or through the Oakland County Health Department. I would encourage people to look into enrolling into a CPR class and learning it so that they're prepared if something like that ever happens to them."

The two doctors were honored by the Pistons for their actions at the next home game on June 16. They were each awarded a home jersey with their names on the back and the number 05.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or by e-mail at rkhuri@ht.honcom.net.



Kid's Fair
Kayla Choiniere, 7, left, and Kady Simside, 5, shoot some hoops during last Saturday's Kids' Fair at the Novi Community Sports Park.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Party for Klaver

The city of Novi is hosting a retirement luncheon for Craig Klaver, who is retiring as the city's chief operating officer, at noon on Wednesday, June 29 in the Novi Civic Center (45175 W. 10 Mile Road). The cost is \$12 per person; deadline for reservations is Monday, June 27.

For more information or to register, call Community Relations at (248) 735-5628.

Kids on Broadway

Kids on Broadway is a new concept in production for The Novi Theaters. It has been 14 years of fairy tales every summer and now a change in direction to a full-blown Broadway-type variety show. Kids on Broadway will be an annual summer camp production. The venue consists of rehearsal and enrichment including vocal, dance and acting instruction.

The three instructors are:

Elaine Rixie, owner of Performing Arts Academy in Novi, dance;

Sheri Sansom, B.A. in Music from Wayne State University, vocal; and
Linda Wickert, B.A. in Performing Arts from University of Detroit and M.A. in theater from Wayne State University, theater.

Rehearsals start July 12; three days a week, four hours a day. The cost is \$270. A production will be presented August 12, 13 and 14. If you missed the auditions, call (248) 347-0400 to inquire about late admittance.

Wixom woman pens novel

Award-winning poet/author Kelly D. Adolph's new novel, "Perilous Times of a Young Black Woman," is a story of triumph over unforeseen circumstances.

Kelly has won three Editor's Choice awards for her poetry. She resides in Wixom and is a single mother of three teens. Adolph operates a poetry Web site at www.kellyadolph.com and www.poetrypoem.com/kellya81.

To place orders for the book, contact: PublishAmerica, LLLP, P.O. Box 151, Frederick, Md., 21705 or call (301) 695-1707.

Weather can't dampen humane society event

Despite afternoon rains and high winds, the "HOOGs for Cats and Dogs" event on June 11 raised over \$3,200 to benefit the Michigan Humane Society which rescues and cares for thousands of animals each year. In addition, 16 cats and dogs found new, loving homes. The event was held at Motor City Golf Warehouse in Novi.

Sponsored by Motor City Harley-Davidson and Motor City Golf Warehouse, "HOOGs for Cats and Dogs" offered a variety of fun family activities including animal adoptions, shopping for the latest Harley-Davidson gear for people and pets and demonstrations by the Southfield Police Department K-9 Unit.

Games in the Dogs offered a dog wash and Pet Supplies "Plus" provided animal ID tags. Michigan Humane Society cruelty investigators and stars of Animal Planet's "Animal Cops: Detroit," Shawn Halstrom and Mark Ramos, were also on-site signing autographs.

Refreshments were provided by Gus O'Connors and the Post Bar.

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It's over!
Novi Meadows sixth graders Erin Kwedem, Rachel Park, and Victoria Tomkinson, right, celebrate their team's victory in the Tug-Of-Way competition during last week's school season-ending field day activities.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi needs 2 more on new cable committee

First meeting takes place at SWOCC Studios

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The first-ever meeting of the new Public Access Promotion Committee took place June 1, with two positions from Novi still needed in this group that reviews access to cable television in the area.

The meetings are held at the Southwestern Oakland Cable Commission Studios in Farmington.

Formerly known as the Cable Access Committee, this committee includes members from the three communities — Novi, Farmington and Farmington Hills — contracted under the Bright House Networks cable TV service.

New members, which are appointed by the individual city councils, are Mark Adler, Novi; Brian Golden and Linda Burke, Farmington; and Eric Borregard, David Steinberg, Johnny Oram and Brian Blesky, Farmington Hills.

Those interested in filling one of the two positions open from Novi should contact the city

clerk's office in Novi at (248) 347-0456.

Golden was elected chairman. /Promotion, chaired by Linda Burke. Contact her at (248) 421-3592 or at lburke1@twmri.com.

Those who have ideas and questions about cable TV access issues can contact Golden at (248) 701-8112.

"Our direction and our charge is to make this a terrific addition to SWOCC. Hopefully, we'll be able to fulfill some of the duties that have been given to us, which include promoting public access to cable TV, educating the community about cable access and finding ways to raise the level of awareness about this medium that is available to those who live in Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi," Golden said.

Golden said that citizens should realize that cable access TV is an self-expression and that more people should become involved.

"It costs nothing to produce a show and find ways to get your message across to the public, whether it be musical, comical or educational," he said.

Three subcommittees were formed in which residents from any communities are invited to

join. These include:

- Committee 1-Events
- Committee 2-Franchise Fee Awareness, chaired by Johnny Oram. Contact him at (248) 910-5078 or at johnnyoram@aol.com.
- Committee 3-Memberships /Volunteers, chaired by Eric Borregard. Contact him at (734) 383-0793 or at eborregard@aol.com.

Members of this committee will help in a grass-roots campaign to protect franchise fees in upcoming federal and state legislation.

Subcommittees will begin to meet this month and continue through the summer. "We encourage all area citizens to get involved and make public access and INFO-TV-12.

Members of this group will help retain access users, generate cable access TV show ideas to keep volunteers active, and help inform more area residents about public access and INFO-TV-12.

Those interested in filling one of the two positions open from Novi should contact the city clerk's office in Novi at (248) 347-0456.

Cohn of SWOCC.

The full membership of the Public Access Promotion Committee meets quarterly. The next meeting will take place at 6 p.m., Sept. 13, at SWOCC Studios, 33300 Nine Mile Road, on the north side of Nine Mile Road just east of Farmington Road.

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

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* Some restrictions may apply

BUSINESS

Pam Fleming, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 pfleming@h.homecomm.net Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@h.homecomm.net

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Realtor honored

Novi's Remerica United Realty office recently honored Jeff Duteske with Remerica's Prestigious Rising Star award for his outstanding achievement of selling over \$7,000,000 in sales in 2004.

Duteske, a Novi resident for over 26 years, also reached the milestone of helping serve over 100 Novi area families with purchasing and selling real estate since 2000.

roads in Farmington Hills into the new building.

Home Web sites

123 Main Street, an innovative real estate marketing concept, gives agents a direct link to home buyers everywhere by gaining exposure through an individual Web site showcasing their listed home.

Playhouse donated

Crosswinds Communities, a Novi-based company that has built single-family homes and town homes in Southeast Michigan, has built and donated their third annual children's playhouse to Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County. Crosswinds President Bernie Glichsman announced.

The playhouse, which will be traveling throughout Monroe County, appearing at numerous venues, was unveiled at Blitz Build on June 11 and will be raffled off on Dec. 1 at the "Home Sweet Home" fund-raising event.

"This is a very important fund-raiser for Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County," said Sally Pritchett, director of resource development. "Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 through this raffle."

Tickets are \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. They can be purchased at the local Habitat for Humanity office or from a Habitat for Humanity Community member.

Infinity breaks ground

J.B. Donaldson Company broke ground on the new Infinity Medical Building to be located at 28455 Haggerty Road in Novi on May 15.

Infinity Primary Care, PLLC, Infinity's Diagnostic Testing, Rehabilitation Physicians, PC, and Wolverine Orthotics are expected to move into the building once it is completed in December 2005. Infinity will be moving its operations from 14 Mile and Haggerty

Vehicle production up

Vehicle production last week in the U.S., Canada and Mexico was expected to hit an estimated 348,038 units, up 15.4 percent from the 301,656 cars and trucks built last week, according to www.WardsAuto.com.

In the U.S., automakers were expected to produce 250,730 vehicles last week, up 22.3 percent from the 205,119 cars and trucks built two weeks ago. To date, calendar 2005 U.S. vehicle output totals an estimated 5,603,608 units, down 1.9 percent compared to the 512,493 vehicles built in 2004.

123 Main Street is a product of Thunder Lake Media, LLC, headquartered in Wall Lake.

Taubman redeems shares

Taubman Centers, Inc., called for a redemption of \$87 million or 3,480,000 shares of its outstanding \$200 million 8.30 percent Series A Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares this month. The shares can be redeemed on July 11 for an aggregate redemption price of \$25,763,809 per share.

Shareholders received a Notice of Redemption, and all questions about it can be directed to Mellon Investor Services at (800) 777-3674. Taubman Centers, Inc., owns Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi.

Record electricity use

Detroit Edison reported that total demand for electricity in their service area on June 10 was greater than any June day in the company's history. At 5 p.m., Detroit Edison electricity demand reached a record-setting 11,715,000 kilowatts (kW) —

exceeding the company's previous June record of 11,473,000 kW set on June 25, 2003, as well as last summer's peak demand day of 11,535,000 kW on July 22, 2004.

"Despite the record-setting demand we experienced today, our system is meeting the challenge, and we have no power outages related to today's heat and humidity," said Steve Kurmas, senior vice president of distribution operations for Detroit Edison. "Detroit Edison has adequate supplies of electricity to meet our customers' needs this summer."

Investor confidence sinks

U.S. investor confidence has sunk to its lowest level since BetterInvesting first began measuring it 18 months ago as part of its Voice of the American Shareholder quarterly national poll conducted by Harris Interactive. The BetterInvesting Shareholder Confidence Index dropped to 5.0 in May from a high of 19.3 in January 2004.

Of the 1,000 individual investors polled by the BetterInvesting VOAS Poll believe that the overall U.S. economy is headed in the right direction. Only about half (49 percent) of respondents feel confident about the direction of the economy.

Compiled by Angela Harris

Four new businesses planned by Novi Town Center investors

Owners to purchase small parcel of city-owned land

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Owners of Novi Town Center hope to build four new buildings that will be a mix of retail and restaurant uses within the center's complex at Novi Road and Grand River Avenue if they receive approval from city officials.

As part of this development proposal, Novi Town Center investors want to purchase about 37 acres of land on the northeast corner of Novi Road and Grand River Avenue currently owned by the city.

This small bit of green space at one of the city's major intersections

is currently underused.

"I drive by there all the time, and I've never seen anybody sitting on those benches," Mayor Lou Casardus said at the June 6 meeting.

City council members tentatively approved a purchase price of \$100,000 for the parcel at their June 6 meeting. Members are scheduled to vote on exact terms of the sale in the near future.

Due to the small size of this parcel, it is not able to be developed under city of Novi ordinances. The city's ownership on the tax rolls is for Novi Town Center owners to purchase the property and make it part of Novi Town Center.

Matthew Quinn, attorney for the complex's owners, said the conceptual plan for the property shows that it will remain as green space and designed for pedestrians.

Two new buildings the owners are proposing will be adjacent to the green space at Novi Town Center. A

third building, which would be situated east of Discount Tire at the corner of Town Center Drive along Grand River Avenue, will be submitted with the other two buildings for council approval.

Finally, a four building west of Steve & Rocky's Restaurant has already received city approval through the initial Town Center site plan in 1986. This parcel was owned by a local developer and was recently purchased by Novi Town Center investors.

Quinn said his clients believe the addition of the four buildings will bring new excitement and interest to the shopping center, with special emphasis on the Grand River frontage and its corner with Novi Road.

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@h.homecomm.net.

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Novi News VARSITY

MICHIGAN 50'S FESTIVAL 2005

EDUCATION

Ramez Khuri, school reporter (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@ht.homecomm.net

Host families needed for foreign exchange students

Teens from all over the world to come to Novi in fall

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

The 2004-05 school year is finished, and now it's time to plan graduation parties, find summer jobs and hit the beaches. But according to Linda Leedy, international exchange coordinator for the Novi area, now is also the best time to sign up to be a host family for an incoming foreign exchange student, who will be arriving this fall.

Leedy is concentrating her efforts in Novi because Novi High School does not have a limit on the number of foreign exchange students who can attend.

"I think this program is wonderful," Leedy said. "Our world is very diverse, and it's getting to be more that way. Bringing a student in to your home is a great way to get to know another culture."

Leedy has worked with EF Foundation for Foreign Study for a year now. Already she has placed two foreign exchange students from Austria and Australia, both of whom attended Novi High School this past year.

Having been to Europe three times with Educational Foundation students, Leedy has seen firsthand how the program works.

"We had our hotel rooms set, and we had our itinerary set," she said. "One of my friends was

• What does a host family have to do to host a student? How will we know if we qualify to host?
Host families must provide room and board and a stable home environment for the student. One or both parents must be at least 25 years of age. Students don't have to have their own bedroom, but if they do share a room, it must be with a child of the same gender who is at least 12 years old. EF Foundation places students in all types of families and communities—single parent, empty-nesters, big cities and rural areas. Students should be treated as a family member, rather than a guest in the home. Families who can provide room and board and a loving home for a student qualify to host.

• How old are the students? What nationalities are they?
Students are between the ages of 15 and 18. They attend the local high school and fully participate in regular classes and extracurricular activities as an American student would. Students come from all over the world—from South America to Scandinavia and as far away as Asia and Australia. EF offices are in each country.

• How are they chosen for this program?
Students are thoroughly screened by foreign offices prior to acceptance into the program. They must pass an interview in English and complete a lengthy application, including recommendations, a timed essay, academic transcript and short-answer questions related to their family life at home. Foreign offices also judge students based on

already involved with placing EF students into host families, and when I retired, she felt it was a good community service project for me to do. I thought it was a

Q & A FOR HOST FAMILIES

academic motivation, maturity and realistic program expectations.

• Can we choose which student we would like to host?
Absolutely. You will have a local coordinator, who will help match a student to your requests. If you're searching for a particular nationality, hobby, or age for your student, your IEC will work with the regional manager in the Boston office to find student applications fitting your requests. You then will have the opportunity to read through several applications to find which student best matches your family.

• Does EF pay host families?
No. All host families are non-paid and volunteer to host because they are passionate about student exchange and bringing a different culture to their home and community. However, host families can be eligible for a \$50 per month tax deduction per student. The student will have money for incidentals and activities he/she wishes to do.

• Do we have support if there is a problem?
Your local coordinator is there to support you and help you to work through any potential problems. IECs are experienced in counseling host families and exchange students and know how to handle problem situations. If your local coordinator is unavailable and you or your student needs advice or support, the regional coordinator is also available to help and counsel on a local level. The Boston

office is your final support option if your local support network is unavailable. During regular working hours, you are always able to reach the Boston staff at (800) 44-SHARE. If there is an emergency situation that occurs after working hours and immediate assistance is needed, there is a Boston staff member on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to help deal with the emergency.

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• Can the student drive while he/she is here?
Students recognize that driving is a privilege, not a guarantee. If the student would like to obtain his/her driver's license while on the program, the student's natural parents must give written permission (obtained by the Boston office), while the host family and the IEC must also approve of the student earning his/her driver's license.

• Am I the student's legal guardian while they're here?
No. EF Foundation is the student's legal guardian while the student is in the program.

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with a variety of different interests.

The students come to the United States with health insurance that covers emergencies and with their own spending money.

The responsibility of a host family is to provide the students with a place to sleep and to treat them as they would treat their own children. They must make sure the students go to school and do their homework. Students can stay for one semester, or the whole year, depending on what they signed up for. One main rule is the students must attend school while here.

"You should try to help them meet people and encourage them if they're a little shy," Leedy said. "You should try to help them get involved in school and in extra-curricular activities."

The students don't even have to be the same age as the host family's own children.

"At this point, there are quite a few students available to Novi residents," Leedy said. "Once someone is approved and they fill out the paperwork, they can have a child assigned to them. I can have everything done in two to three days, but if they want the widest selection of students, this is the time to do it. Host families can even keep in touch with the student they have chosen throughout the summer by e-mail."

Those interested in hosting a foreign exchange student can call Leedy at (248) 349-5599.

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@ht.homecomm.net.



There was one raffle winner from each elementary school in the Novi Community School District during the fourth grade Bonaventure family skating party: Kara Thompson, Parkview; Ann Greulich, Orchard Hills; Kathryn Giroux, Deerfield; Tristen Asmann, Novi Woods; Jessica Snyder, Village Oaks; and Emily Murphy, Novi Woods.

Future Novi fifth-graders meet each other

The Class of 2013 met new friends at Bonaventure family skating April 26. This was the first event of its kind where the fourth-graders from all five Novi elementary schools had an event before entering the fifth grade. The idea and planning of this event was all done by Deerfield mom Karen

Koicher, who wanted to provide an opportunity for the kids to meet and see the faces of their new friends before they enter Novi Meadows.

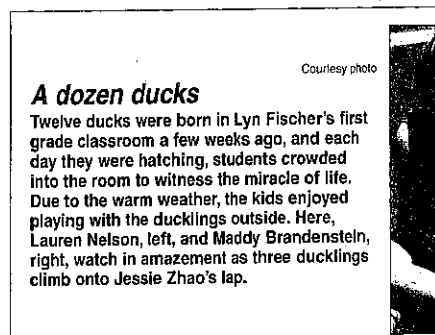
At the event, the kids wore name tags with some information about themselves, and then they had to find five new friends,

preferably one from each school. They were then eligible to enter a drawing for prizes donated for the event.

There were 235 kids who participated in the event. Novi Meadows Principal Dr. Tim Fulk and Vice Principal Lisa Rencher both attended. The kids were

thrilled to meet them as well. The money raised from the event will be provided to Novi Meadows for supplies for this fifth grade class.

Several parent helpers were available to assist the kids with their name tags and entering the raffle.



A dozen ducks

Twelve ducks were born in Lyn Fischer's first grade classroom a few weeks ago, and each day they were hatching, students crowded into the room to witness the miracle of life. Due to the warm weather, the kids enjoyed playing with the ducklings outside. Here, Lauren Nelson, left, and Maddy Brandenstein, right, watch in amazement as three ducklings climb onto Jessie Zhao's lap.



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FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-041
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Master Spas of Novi is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow placement of a tent for a sale tent sale in the store's parking lot located at 25075 Novi Road, Suite 130 (City Center Plaza). The sale dates are July 1 through July 3, 2005.
A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 10:00 am on Thursday, June 30, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail U. Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.
GAIL U. BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415
(6-23-05 NN 221956)

CITY OF NOVI CONNEMARA/GALWAY WATERMAIN EXTENSION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 173 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE DATE: JULY 11, 2005 TIME: 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE NOVI CITY HALL 45175 WEST TEN MILE ROAD NOVI, MICHIGAN
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by previous resolution adopted following a public hearing, the Novi City Council has determined to proceed with this improvement project, and has specified the properties to be included in the district to be specially assessed for the costs of the project. On Monday, July 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Novi City Hall, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, the City Council shall meet for the purpose of hearing comments and objections from interested persons regarding the proposed special assessment roll for this project, known as Connemara/Galway Water Main Extension Special Assessment District No. 173.
The proposed improvement is a water system extension project which is intended to specially benefit the properties described on the attached Exhibit A, the Special Assessment District. The cost for the Project as approved by the Council following the first public hearing has not increased by five (5%) per cent or more.
A copy of the Special Assessment Roll for this Project is on file at the City Clerk's Offices, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, for public examination during normal business hours.
Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in order to appeal the matters to be considered at the hearing to the State Tax Tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter at or before the hearing and his or her personal appearance in such case shall not be required.
EXHIBIT A
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 173 (Properties included within the district)
50-22-34-154-020
50-22-34-154-021
50-22-34-154-022
50-22-34-155-011
50-22-34-155-012
50-22-34-155-013
50-22-34-176-010
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CITY OF NOVI
(6-23-05 NN 221480)

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NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS NEW 2004, 2005, 2006 VEHICLES
The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for New 2004, 2005, 2006 Vehicles according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.
Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Tuesday, July 5, 2005 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:
"NEW 2004, 2005, 2006 VEHICLES BID"
AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.
The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informally or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.
CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3024
All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED
"NEW 2004, 2005, 2006 VEHICLES BID"
AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.
The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informally or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.
CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446
(6-23-05 NN 221855)

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ON CAMPUS

Kristy Enderlin, of Novi, has been named to the dean's list for spring 2005 semester at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio.

Mark Levin, of Novi, has been named to the dean's list for spring 2005 at Central Michigan University.

Novi residents Tonja Bagwell, Argean Baird, Tracy Belland, Megan Brennan, Amelia Burkhardt, Lesley Cartwright, Sara Cavanaugh, Briann Croombs-Promoux, Casey Cummins, Dina D'Amrosio, Christopher Dearing, Christian Dellavechia, Jillian Firoz, Kaelyn Garcia, Kenneth Gauthier, Andra Griebhaber, Stephen Gurka, Sari Hanna, Tami Howard, Amy Hudgins, Jae-Eun Hyun, Erica Jamrog, Brittany Johnson, Seung-Hun Kim, Gregory Kirkman, Kumiko Konuma, Joanna Kondsrazuk, Patrice Kroll, Carolyn Lowry, Beverly-Jo Mitchell, Natalie Ochmanek,

Novi residents Arleen Cunningham, Christopher Dearing, Jillian Firoz, Stephen Gurka, Sari Hanna, Jae-Eun Hyun, Joanna Kondsrazuk and Kara Sass were among the spring 2005 graduates at Madonna University during commencement exercises.

James J. Faysal II, sophomore, pre-medicine major at Hillsdale College, was named to the dean's list for the 2005 spring semester. Faysal is the son of George and Vicki Faysal of Novi and is a 2003 graduate of Novi High School.

SCHOOL BRIEF

McCotter announces Congressional District Art Competition Winners

Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter (R-Livonia) announced the winners of the Michigan 11th Congressional District Art Competition. They are as follows:
First Place: Donna Neddo of Walled Lake Central High School, "Emissary"
Second Place: Asani Irie of Novi High School, "Untitled"
Third Place: Jessica Smith of Novi High School, "Two Men on a Sunday"
Runner Up: Shang Chen of Salem High School, "Before the Rain"
As the first place winner, Neddo will have her artwork sent to Washington, D.C., to be viewed with other first-place winners around the country in the Capitol Rotunda. Her artwork will also be entered in the national competition. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was June 14.
As the second-place winner, Irie will have her artwork displayed in Congressman McCotter's Washington, D.C., office.
Smith and Chen will have their artwork displayed in the Congressman McCotter's Livonia District Office.

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CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING VILLAGE OAKS LAKE DREDGING PROJECT
The City of Novi Engineering Division will be conducting a Public Information Meeting on Wednesday, June 29, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in the Training Center facility of the Novi Police Headquarters located at 45125 W. Ten Mile Road for the Village Oaks Lake Dredging Project. The purpose of this meeting is to present preliminary engineering plans and project limits for the dredging operation. City staff and consultants will be conducting the meeting and will be available to answer questions and address concerns.
(6-23-05 NN 220143)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY USE PERMIT TUP 05-040
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Discount Tire Company is requesting a Temporary Use Permit to allow a tent sale at 42980 Grand River Avenue for July 1, 2005 and July 2, 2005.
A public hearing meeting to consider this request will be held at 9:30 am on Thursday, June 30, 2005. The meeting is at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road. Written and signed approvals or objections will be accepted into the file if received prior to the scheduled meeting. Please address all communications to Gail U. Backus at the City of Novi Building Department 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375.
GAIL U. BACKUS
TEMPORARY USE PERMIT SECRETARY
(248) 347-0415
(6-23-05 NN 221777)

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS NEW 2004, 2005, 2006 VEHICLES
The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for New 2004, 2005, 2006 Vehicles according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Bid packages are available at the Office of the Purchasing Director.
Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Tuesday, July 5, 2005 at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed as follows:
"NEW 2004, 2005, 2006 VEHICLES BID"
AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER.
The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder, to waive any irregularities or informally or both, to reject any or all proposals, and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.
CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIK, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
(248) 347-0446
(6-23-05 NN 221855)

Middle schoolers lend their talents for a great cause

Students shave teacher's head to raise funds for cancer patients

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPECIAL WRITER

On June 16, middle school students showcased their talents at the annual Novi Middle School Variety Show. The show, divided into seventh and eighth grade performances, included approximately 40 students and was coordinated by Karen TenBrink, Novi Middle School vocal music teacher.

Rehearsals began in May, and despite the amount of time required to produce a successful show, TenBrink said that the final product was worth the challenges.

"Love it," TenBrink said. "It's a chance to see the kids outside the classroom, to see things you normally don't get to see because they do it in their own time...you see what hidden talents they have, and it's interesting."

Singers, dancers, and pianists were common, as well as musical

performances including rhythmic gymnastics, poetry recitations, and drum twirling.

These rock bands performed at both shows, demonstrating musical talent not addressed in the middle school music program. Broken Curfew, a band led by seventh grade guitarist and vocalist Jackson Landry, performed two songs specifically written for the variety show. At the beginning of the school year, Landry formed the band when he was offered the opportunity to play in a local show. The variety show was the band's fourth performance.

"It was different to play in front of people that I knew, because at other shows, I don't know everyone who's there," Landry said. "It made me more excited for this show because people knew about us and wanted to know more about our music."

According to Landry, the variety show provided the band with the experience of performing in front of a large audience and was a success due to the positive response from students and the solid performance of his band.

After participating in the Novi Middle School play, eighth-grader Amanda Metz decided to write and direct a skit for the variety show. The skit, called "Fairy Wings,"

depicted a fairy who, after tiring of

her perfect life, traveled to the human world and realized that her familiar world was superior to the unknown. Through her skit, Metz tried to show students that they should be happy with what they have.

"As a director, I wasn't nervous about the performance, but more nervous about how students would accept the play," Metz said. "There was some stuff about how humans act toward one another and the environment that might have come across negative to some people, but I think they got the point and liked it as a whole."

In addition to student performances, the variety show provided a culmination of an American Cancer Society year-long fundraiser. Seventh grade language arts teacher Jim Schneider, sporting hair past his shoulders, agreed to have students shave his head at the variety show if the school raised \$5,000 for the cause.

"Students didn't believe that I would do it, but they were pretty motivated to raise money for the cause once they realized that I would," Schneider said.

"Through donation jars, bake sales, luncheon bags, and memorial stars, Novi Middle School students raised over \$10,000. At each performance, Schneider had half of his head shaved and donated 13

inches of his hair to Locks of Love.

Although walking around between performances with a partly shaved head caused "a lot of pointing and laughing," Schneider said that the students deserved the reward for their successful fundraising.

Overall, the variety show provided an entertaining end to the school year while allowing students to display their talents in front of a supportive audience.

"The performers are usually pretty nervous to perform in front of their peers, but when they get all the applause and get off the stage, they're beaming," TenBrink said. "It's a great experience to be on a real stage with a big audience. It's a great tradition."

Courtney Ratkowiak will be a Novi High School senior this fall.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Middle School student Lauren Forche shaves the head of teacher Jim Schneider during last week's year-end celebration - where students who gave time and money to the Race For A Cure fundraiser got to abuse the hairstyle of Mr. Schneider.



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Mitch Ryder
AND THE DETROIT WHEELS
with guest **the Martindales**

8pm, Thursday June 30, 2005
appearing at **Bakers of Milford**

South Lyon Herald tickets available at: 101 N. Lafayette (248) 437-2011
Bakers of Milford tickets available at: 2025 S. Milford Rd. (248) 685-0505

A concert to benefit tsunami relief for the "South Lyon to Sri Lanka" fund, and to assist Active Faith in helping local families.

South Lyon Herald to Sri Lanka

The South Lyon Herald presents
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A concert to benefit tsunami relief for the "South Lyon to Sri Lanka" fund, and to assist Active Faith in helping local families.

Active Faith Community Services

HEALTH

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

Novi team ready for Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk

Utter Madness ladies prepare for 60-mile event

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Erika McKee of Novi has a lot to be thankful for. She has a wonderful husband, Dave; a 6-year-old son, Daniel; and a 2-year-old daughter, Caitlin.

She also has a mother who recently survived breast cancer. Erika will be one of the walkers in the upcoming Breast Cancer 3-Day 60-mile walk next month in Michigan.

She will walk in honor of her mother, Deanne Nelsen, of Northville, and her husband Dave's grandmother, Margaret McKee, of Royal Oak, who both triumphed over the disease.

During the Michigan event, July 15-17, participants walk 20 miles a day for three days to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

They start at 6:30 a.m. July 15 at the Meadowbrook Music Festival grounds on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills and finish at the Michigan State Fairgrounds in Detroit.

Food, beverages, shower and toilet facilities, and tents are provided by various event sponsors. Erika and Dave walked in the Chicago fund-raiser last year, and this year's event in Michigan is one of 12 such walks across the nation.

Erika's family moved to the area in 1982. She graduated from Northville High School in 1987 and now works part time for TRW Automotive in Livonia.

About eight or nine years ago, her mother had heart disease, which led to four angioplasties and open heart surgery. Then, about two years later, her mother learned she had breast cancer, which led to a lumpectomy and radiation. Although her mother didn't have to undergo chemotherapy, Erika said it was still tough to watch what she went through.

"She was just exhausted," Erika said. Erika heard about the Breast Cancer 3-Day and decided she had to participate.

"I had to do something because I'm so thankful. My kids are so fortunate to have four grandparents who just live a few miles from us," she said.

Erika's husband, a local attorney, jumped in and said he would walk with her and will participate again in July. She was responsible, however, for the fund-raising aspect.

Last year, Erika raised \$10,000 for the walk with a letter-writing campaign. This year,

she decided to do something different and hosted a fund-raising party for about 40 people at their home in March. She raised \$1,700 from a silent auction with items donated from more than 50 Northville and Novi merchants.

"The merchants were phenomenal. This year, I'm just shy of \$5,000 and still going," she said. Each walker has to raise a minimum of \$2,100 to participate.

As a young mother of two little ones, Erika noted that it's easy to get wrapped up in one's own life.

"This walk is about educating people about breast cancer and doing something for someone else," she said.

Last year, the McKees walked along a woman who had lost her daughter, a man who had lost his wife and some women who were in the middle of chemotherapy.

"It was very inspiring," Erika said. "Now I can say I've helped raise \$50,000 so far to combat breast cancer."

Other team members include Maria Gron of Novi, Bonnie Wojciechowski of Novi, Jodi Jones of Chesterfield Township, Susie Elfikar, of Ferndale and Tamika Montgomery of Oak Park. The team's name is Utter Madness, "because what else is walking 60 miles?" Erika said.

Gron said she will walk for her children, Lauren, 10, and

Megan, 5.

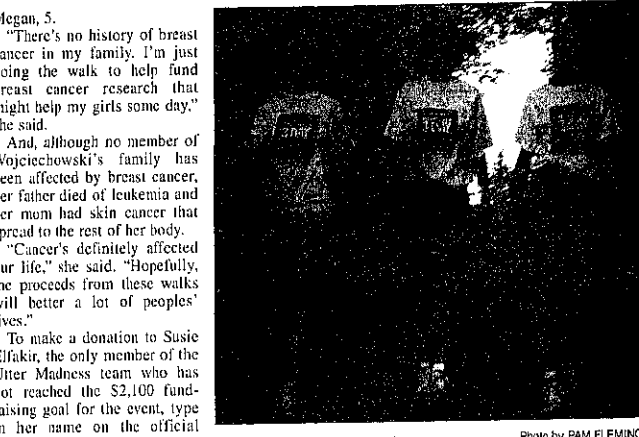
"There's no history of breast cancer in my family. I'm just doing the walk to help fund breast cancer research that might help my girls some day," she said.

And, although no member of Wojciechowski's family has been affected by breast cancer, her father died of leukemia and her mom had skin cancer that spread to the rest of her body.

"Cancer's definitely affected our life," she said. "Hopefully, the proceeds from these walks will better a lot of people's lives."

To make a donation to Susie Elfikar, the only member of the Utter Madness team who has not reached the \$2,100 fundraising goal for the event, type in her name on the official Breast Cancer 3-Day Web site, www.the3day.org.

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@hl.homecomm.net.



Three members of the six-member Utter Madness team that will participate in the July 15-17 Breast Cancer 3-Day fund-raiser in Detroit. From left: Maria Gron, Erika McKee and Bonnie Wojciechowski, all of Novi. The event starts about 6:30 a.m. July 15 at Meadowbrook Music Festival in Rochester Hills and ends Sunday afternoon at the Michigan State Fairgrounds.

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Deadline for Sunday's publication is Thursday at 12 noon

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Reservation Deadline: July 12, 2005 Publication Date: August 11, 2005	Reservation Deadline: July 15, 2005 Publication Date: August 18, 2005	Reservation Deadline: July 22, 2005 Publication Date: August 25, 2005

South Lyon Herald	Northville Record Novi News	Milford Times
248-437-2011	248-349-1700	248-685-1507

Dancing Through the Years

on Thursday, July 7, 2005

The Livingston County Daily Press & Argus, South Lyon Herald, Novi News, Northville Record & Milford Times will publish a special section devoted to area dancing students. This section is designed to give special recognition for all dedication each dancer puts into their performance.

Cost per ad will be \$25.00 (for each photo)
Deadline is June 30th, 2005

To place your special dancer in "Dancing Through the Years," complete the information below. Mail with your payment to Livingston County Daily Press & Argus P.O. Box 230P, Howell, MI 48844, Attn: Leslie

Please Print
Dancer's Name _____
Years of Dance Experience _____
Studio Name _____
Parent's Name _____
Check enclosed # _____
*Make Checks Payable to Livingston County Press & Argus
Charge to my Visa, M.C. or Discover Acct. # _____ Exp. _____
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ACTUAL SIZE OF AD

Dancer's Name (Years of experience) (Studio Name) (Parents)

Include self addressed stamped envelope if you'd like photo returned.
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus is Not responsible for mailed ads not received by deadline.

CALENDAR

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

EVENTS

Border Books and Music Activities

DATE: Saturday, June 25
TIME: 1-3 p.m.
DETAILS: Author, Kurt Haskin, will be signing his book, Michigan.
DATE: Friday, July 15
TIME: 9 p.m.
DETAILS: Party celebrating the midnight, July 16 release of the sixth book in L.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."
LOCATION: 13075 Crescent Blvd., Novi
CONTACT: (248) 347-0780

Novi Theaters Productions

TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 12 and Saturday, Aug. 13, 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 14
DETAILS: Summer Camp Kids on Broadway.
TIME/DATE: noon, Thursdays, Sept. 8, 15; Fridays, Sept. 9, 16 and 2 p.m., Saturdays, Sept. 11, 18
DETAILS: Senior Variety Series: Kids on Route 66.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0480

Michigan 50's Festival

DATE: July 15-16
LOCATION: Fountain Walk Shopping Center on west side corner of Novi Road and I-96
DETAILS: Annual event dedicated to the 1950's, featuring a circus, carnival, food and musical acts.
CONTACT: (248) 349-1959 or www.michigan50sfestival.com

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

Special Session on DDAs

DATE: Monday, Aug. 1
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Members of the Novi City Council will have a special session to discuss

the pros and cons on the establishment of a Downtown Development Authority. The public is invited to attend this meeting.
CONTACT: (248) 347-0486

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, July 11
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday, July 7
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Educational Services Building, 25345 Taft Road, Novi
CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesdays, June 28; July 12, 26; Aug. 9, 23; Sept. 13, 27; Oct. 11, 25; Nov. 9, 22; Dec. 13 and 20
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 49043 Pontiac Trail
CONTACT: (248) 624-4557

BUSINESS

Tea Time Talk Luncheon

DATE: Wednesday, July 20
TIME: noon-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Women's Nest Bed and Breakfast, 7405 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents.
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
TIME: 7:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referrals business. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.
CONTACT: (734) 362-6460

CLASSES

Estate Planning and Living Trust Workshop

DATE: Thursday, June 30

TIME: 10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Free workshop presented by Strategic Legal Services, P.C.
CONTACT: Barb, (248) 269-0660, extension 2015

Providence Center for the Healing Arts "Tuesdays at Assarian"

DATE: Every Tuesday night
TIME: 5-8 p.m.
LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi
DETAILS: Variety of activities for the adult community to come and enjoy a unique mix of classes sponsored by the Providence Center for the Healing Arts. Some activities may include a supplies fee (no more than \$10).
CONTACT: (248) 465-5483

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Monday
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive (activity room, main floor)
DETAILS: No partner needed for lessons in this pay-as-you-go program. Cost is \$5 for Novi residents and for those ages 55 and up; \$6 for non-residents.
CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Novi Civic Center for the Healing Arts — Artist-in-Residence

ONGOING: Thursdays
TIME: 1:00-2:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Creative Arts Studio, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave.
DETAILS: Artist May Tecavans instructs. Class will include drawing, pastels, watercolor, and mixed media. There is a \$5 materials fee. Drop-in or register.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

LIBRARY LINES

The library will be closed Monday, July 4, for Independence Day.

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, closed during the summer.
DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Help Match the Walker Million

DETAILS: With A Million Books going up on the walls, there are more books than usual these days at the library. By purchasing one of the paper signs in the shape of a book for \$1, you can help the library match the \$1 million Walker challenge grant. The book signs may be purchased at any service desk in the library.

Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds

DETAILS: Brochures describing the 2005 Summer Reading Program for kids in the fourth grade and below are now available in the library. Sign-up began Monday, June 20.

Jeost Read

DETAILS: Our Summer Reading Program for kids going into the fifth grade and beyond features awesome programs and prizes throughout the summer. Sign-up begins June 20.

Drop-In Story Time

DATE: Thursday, June 23
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
DETAILS: Kids age 4 and up are invited to join us for 30 minutes of stories and fun. No registration.

Tie-Dye

DATE: Monday, June 27
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: Bring a pre-washed, 100-percent cotton item (t-shirt). For kids in fifth grade and

up; \$2 materials fee. Sign up in advance in the teen area of the library.

Movie Day

DATE: Tuesday, June 28
TIME: 1 p.m.
DETAILS: PG-rated movie, for kids in kindergarten and up, no registration.

Exotic Animals and Our Environment

DATE: Wednesday, June 29
TIME: 1 p.m., ages 4 and up; 7 p.m., all ages
DETAILS: Mobile Ed Productions brings exotic, live animals to the library. No registration.

Crafts for Kids

DATE: Tuesday, July 5
TIME: 1 p.m., ages 5-6; 2 p.m., ages 7 and up
DETAILS: \$2.00 materials fee for each 40-minute program. No registration is necessary, but space is limited.

Wanda Degen & Pete Wittig

DATE: Wednesday, July 6
TIME: 1 p.m.
DESCRIPTION: Music and fun with dulcimers, guitars, and more. For ages 4 and up; no registration.

GOLF OUTINGS

St. Mary Mercy Hospital 10th Annual Golf Classic

DATE: Friday, June 24
TIME: 6:30 a.m., registration for 7:30 a.m. shotgun start; 11:30 a.m., registration for 1:30 p.m. shotgun start
LOCATION: Catalina Golf Club, 57737 Nine Mile Road, South Lyon
DETAILS: Proceeds will assist Cardiology Services at the hospi-

tal.
CONTACT: (734) 655-4800

Novi Lions Club 12th Annual Charity Golf Outing

DATE: Thursday, July 14
TIME: 9 a.m., shotgun start
LOCATION: Links of Novi Golf Course, 50395 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Proceeds will go to Penickton Center for Blind Children, Taylor, Mich.
CONTACT: Lion Jerry Coonce at (248) 348-0531, Lion Pete Headly at (248) 960-9042 or Lion Terri D. Taylor at (248) 960-3562

Novi High School Band Golf Outing

DATE: Sunday, July 31
TIME: noon
LOCATION: Tanglewood Golf Course, 53503 10 Mile Road, Lyon Township
DETAILS: \$100 per golfer, lunch, dinner and prizes included. Raffle prizes are needed.
CONTACT: Dorian Kochyuan, (248) 348-5135

Novi Parks Foundation & Singh Development Golf Outing

DATE: Thursday, Aug. 4
TIME: 8:30 a.m., registration; 10 a.m., shotgun start
LOCATION: Links of Novi, 50395 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
DETAILS: \$100 per golfer, lunch, dinner, silent auction included. Proceeds benefiting Novi Parks Foundation.
CONTACT: Brian Burke, (248) 561-0255 or BBurke@links-of-novi.com

1st Annual Novi Wildcats Boys Basketball Golf Outing

DATE: Saturday, Aug. 6
LOCATION: Tanglewood Golf Club, 53503 10 Mile Road, Lyon Township
DETAILS: Golf, lunch, raffle, prizes

continued on next page

CALENDAR

continued from page 18

CONTACT: Dave Crandell at (248) 380-3148 or Doug Reichley at (248) 380-3921

SUPPORT GROUPS

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: every Saturday
TIME: 9-10:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Pontiac Trail, Wixom (parking behind the church)
DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer as you face life's problems, issues and frustrations. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
CONTACT: Nancy and Susan, (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth Tuesdays of the month
LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Classroom C, on the ground floor of the hospital.
TIME: 10-11:30 a.m.
DETAILS: No registration
CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

HEALTH

Free Eye Screening

DATE: Tuesday, July 19
LOCATION: Dr. David Shepherd, Ophthalmologist, 41835 W. 12 Mile Road
DETAILS: screening for diabetic eye disease and macular degeneration
CONTACT: (248) 347-8030, to schedule an appointment.

Providence Medical Center/Heart Institute Classes

LOCATION: Providence Park, Novi, 47601 Grand River

CONTACT: (888) 444-7325, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Childbirth Education

DATE: Saturday, July 9 and Sunday, July 10
TIME: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
DETAILS: Weekend series designed to prepare the pregnant woman and her support person for the birth experience. A tour of the birthing area is included.

Breast-Feeding Preparation

DATE: July 16
TIME: 10 a.m.
DETAILS: Class provides information expectant mothers as they prepare to breast-feed. The cost is \$15.
Infant Massage
DATE: Saturdays, July 16 and 30
DETAILS: Infant massage classes are a way to communicate with your infant before words. It is a way of establishing early lifelong bonds and trust between child and parent.

Baby Care Basics

DATE: Saturday, July 30
TIME: 10 a.m.
DETAILS: This class provides information about bathing, feeding, safety, health care and more.
Childbirth Refresher
DATE: Tuesday, Aug. 2
DETAILS: Designed for the woman and her partner who have attended childbirth classes during a previous pregnancy. It provides a review of the birth process and techniques for dealing with labor and birth.

Yoga Classes

DATES/TIMES: Mondays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; Fridays, noon-1:30 p.m.
DETAILS: The cost is \$10/walk-ins or 10 class card for \$80. If you are interested in battling fatigue, calming your nerves or reducing stress, this is the class for you.

ONGOING

Cool Car Cruise

DATE: every Wednesday through October
TIME: 5 p.m., rain or shine

LOCATION: Motor City Steel, 2111 Haggerty Road, Commerce Township

DETAILS: All cool cars welcome regardless of year, 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's music by TI the DJ. Lots of free giveaways, including 50/50 free T-shirts to the first 75 cars.
CONTACT: (248) 668-1144

EXPO CENTER

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Grand Opening Rock Financial Showplace

DATE: Friday, Aug. 26 (by invitation only), and Saturday, Aug. 27 (open to the public)
TIMES: Aug. 26, 3 p.m.-ribbon cutting; 4:30 p.m.-facility christening; 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.; "The Show of Shows"; 6:30 p.m.; Dinner Gala; 8 p.m.-program; 9 p.m., headline entertainment. Aug. 27, 10 a.m.-Showplace open to the public free of charge; 7 p.m., opening act entertainment; 8 p.m., headline entertainment; 9:45 p.m., fireworks.
DETAILS: Sponsorships are available at a variety of levels. Some sponsorship packages include dinner tickets for the Aug. 26 invitation-only gala.
CONTACT: Anne Slocy, (248) 348-5600, Ext. 210

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

RESPECT THE EARTH... RECYCLE!

Jonathon Park kicks off the Kid's Concert Series tonight

Family shows to be held throughout summer

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Tonight will officially mark the beginning of summer at the Novi Parks and Recreation Department, as the Kid's Concert Series will kick off with a performance by Jonathon Park.

The concert series is an opportunity for families to spend Thursday nights throughout the summer together, watching and being a part of a variety of shows, magic acts, music and much more.

Each show, except the last one of the summer on Aug. 18, will be held at 7 p.m. at Lakeshore Park, located at 601 South Lake Drive in Novi. In addition to hosting the series, the park also boasts nine miles of wilderness trails and lifeguards during beach hours.

"We've made some great updates to Lakeshore Park, and we're excited for people to come and see them," said Tracie Ringle, event and marketing coordinator for the city's Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. "As far as beach accessibility, we put in new fencing and all new landscaping."

In the last two years, a new play structure has been added, and rest rooms have been improved, as has parking. "It has a great up-north-like atmosphere," Ringle said. "Adding the Kid's Concert series there is a way to introduce it to more people."

Ringle explained that all

CONCERT SCHEDULE

Most of the Novi Parks and Recreation Department's Kid's Concert Series will take place every Thursday night at 7 p.m. throughout the summer, starting tonight at Lakeshore Park. However, the last concert of the series will be held at Providence Park starting at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 18.

• **Tonight: Jonathon Park** — A national act featuring high-energy comedy and juggling. Audiences of this family-friendly performer should expect plenty of participation.

• **June 30: Amazing Clank Duo** — This duo will please the whole family with a funny and creative act featuring puppets, magic, balloons and more.

• **July 21: Songwriter Julie Austin and David Mosher** — This duo features a unique blend of humorous children's music. All songs are interactive with audiences dancing, moving and singing. Expect to hear a number of instruments, including the mandolin, fiddle, banjo and more.

• **July 28: Harpbeat** — Highly interactive, award-winning musical entertainment for the entire family. This duo has been featured in parenting and family fun magazines.

• **Aug. 4: The Kevin Devine Musical Circus** — With over 1,000 original songs, this program has something to please everyone's ear.

• **Aug. 11: Pippin Puppets** — These puppets have performed all over Southeast Michigan, including the Michigan Renaissance Festival. This new show will have the audience taking part.

• **Aug. 18: Chautauqua Express and the Novi Concert Band** — The entire audience will have their feet tapping. This show promises to be entertaining and interactive. Everyone from toddlers to grandparents will enjoy this evening.

shows will be 45 minutes to an hour long and will be based on what kids like to see. Everything from puppet acts, to sing-alongs, to circus acts will be performed.

And don't think that if it rains, shows will be canceled. "If it looks cloudy, we move the concerts indoors, to the Novi Civic Center," Ringle said. "They're never canceled."

A weather hotline has been established to find out if a show has been moved indoors. Attendees can call (248) 347-0473 by 4 p.m. on the day of any given show to find out.

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@ht.homecomm.net.

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TEEN CHAT - WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG?

What if everything you believe to be true is actually wrong? What would happen if you discovered that everything you based your entire life on was incorrect? How would that make you feel? Would you feel like you wasted your time, maybe even your entire life on something worthless?

That's a question atheists sometimes ask Christians. I've heard this many times over. Their typical questions go something like this: "Why should I live like there is a God? What if there really isn't a 'Higher Power' (they sometimes call 'God')? What then? What becomes of my life if I live like there is a God, and then when I die nothing happens? Has my life been a waste?"

Atheists or agnostics actually ask some very good philosophical questions, and I'm not just being facetious here. Now I'm asking the question - What if everything I've believed is wrong? What then? Ouch!

How many of you have ever thought those same questions, maybe even used them "against God" when you considered serving Him as a Christian? Here's my answer. This answer has always been my answer to people that use

that series of questions as an excuse to not serve God.

If I'm wrong, and I found that out after I die (I guess I'll know because I won't be in heaven. But atheists say that people just cease to exist upon dying, so how will I know that I'm not in heaven if I just "cease to exist?"), then I will still have lived an extraordinary life. I have been at peace with others and myself almost my entire life. I have not hurt many people. I have not lived a life of thievery or bitterness. I have learned to work through most of my personal issues. So, if I die, and I somehow find out that I've been wrong, "Oh well! I've still lived and enjoyed a pretty good life!"

On the other hand, what if Christians are right, and there is a God to be reckoned with on Judgment Day? Ouch again! That's why I, Pastor Sam Belanger, choose to serve Him, not just for fear's sake, but for reverence's sake. He is a holy God, and I want to be on the right side of that holiness.

On a Web site friendly to our student ministry at our church (they have tons of videos I've used for my youth services), www.emerging-minister.com, it has a short series of videos called "Bobblehead

Theater." They are hilarious. The producer of the series had a bunch of bobbleheads he used to produce videos with a message. In the one entitled "What If You're Wrong?" "Davey," from the old "Davey and Goliath" cartoon/clay series on Sunday mornings, walks around his town. As he meets his friends, he asks them what they're doing. When they answer him, he responds with, "What if you're wrong? What if your gold chains don't make you look cool, Mr. T?"

I think all of us from time to time wonder if what we believe to be true about life really IS true. They are definitely fair questions we ask ourselves. Many teens second-guess their values system when they hear of other plausible ideas. They wonder if everything they've been taught about life and truth is true. What are young and impressionable minds to do then? Good question. (I'm glad you asked!)

1. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. Probably everything you've ever been taught isn't all true. That doesn't mean everything is false either. How many groups have proven that many school textbooks include falsities? Many.

2. Test all things. Is God real?

Well, contrary to popular belief, everything we see and smell and experience outdoors (nature) cannot be due to simple evolution. Everything had to have a beginning, and things don't just materialize out of nowhere. There HAS to be a Creator. That's the only possible explanation. Otherwise, I'm believing for a materialization of a million dollars in front of me. I don't care if it does have to evolve over time...I'm willing to wait! Haha!

3. Believe greater men and women who have "gone before us." Many of their minds were able to think creatively and understand mysteries more so than we. Trust them. Trust their experiences you can read about in their biographies. Most of them asked these same questions, did research, and came up with a similar conclusion. GOD.

If any of you are interested, I could compile a list of books for you to purchase and read that will be helpful. Email me with questions you might have. I understand your dilemma.

It's good to ask questions, but it's better to know the Answer.

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PEOPLE

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

Marilyn Suttle, of Novi, will be awarded the coveted MORE award at the National Speakers Association's Annual Convention in Atlanta on July 11. Suttle serves as director of public relations on the board of the National Speakers Association, State of Michigan Chapter.



In addition to serving as public relations director for NSA Michigan, Suttle is a national speaker on work and life balance and relationship building issues and is co-author of "The Better Bottom Line: Skills and Strategies for Developing Your Business" and producer of the helpful CD, "Problem Solving Strategies for Parents".


The National Speakers Association, Michigan Chapter, holds bimonthly meetings, open to the public, for anyone interested in starting, improving, or

advancing the business of speaking. For more information, visit Website www.nsamichigan.org or call (800) 990-7726.

Congratulations to the first recipient of this year's Eye on Novi recognition program.

Paul and Florence Metz, 44740 W. 10 Mile Road, moved to this home in Novi three years ago and have made a big impression toward beautifying their slice of Novi. "My wife, Florence, is the designer and implementer, and I am the maintainer" said Paul Metz, quite happily riding around on his lawn mower as his son tagged along behind him.

Each year, April through December, the City of Novi's Beautification Commission seeks to recognize outstanding efforts by its citizen gardeners, small area businesses and neighborhood subdivision entryways. The Metz's will be presented with a personalized certificate of appreciation along with thanks for helping to keep Novi beautiful.



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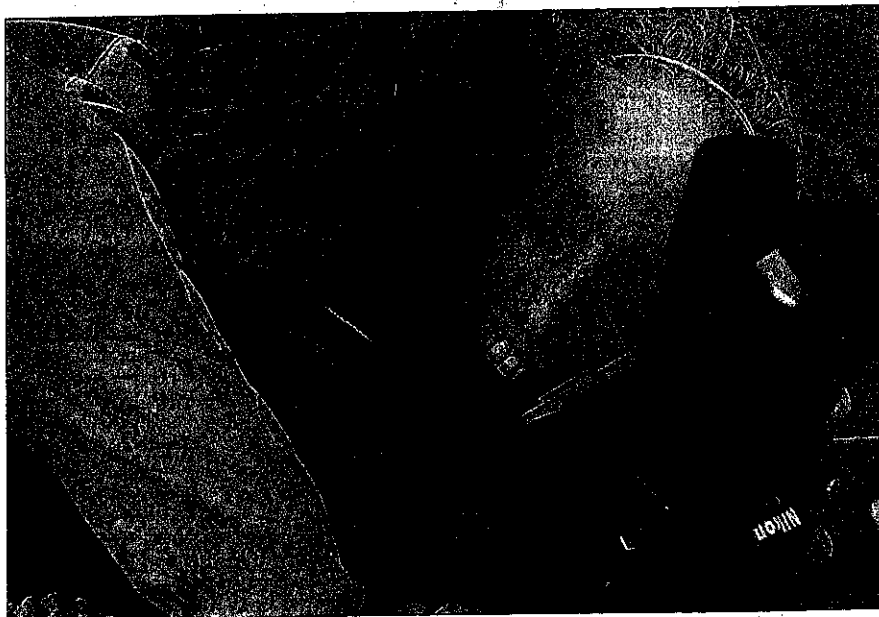
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STATE UNDEFEATED



Photos by JOHN HEIDER

TOP: The Wildcats hoist their MHSAA Div. 1 state championship trophy after beating the Bulldogs to claim the top spot in soccer; ABOVE LEFT: Novi goalkeeper Kim Herbst gets a hug from her mom Barb moments after the Wildcats claimed the state title; ABOVE RIGHT: With a few ticks of the clock left, Novi headcoach Brian O'Leary begins to celebrate the Wildcats' state championship last Saturday.

CHAMPS!

GET IN THE SWING

Page 2B

Thursday, June 23, 2005

PAID ADVERTISING



The long, sweeping fairway of the par-5 12th hole at Dunham Hills Golf Club is typical of some of the longer holes on the back nine. The course features rolling hills and dense wilderness, offering golfers an exciting challenge.



The view from the 11th tee area shows the daunting task at hand—hitting a shot skilled enough to reach the green that is 215 yards away over water.

Hills abound in Hartland

Dunham Hills offers great views, challenging golf

By John Mueller
SPORTS WRITER

One of the many eccentricities of the game of golf is that you can cover hundreds and hundreds of yards in just a few shots—only to waste several more shots in a space of 10 yards or less around the green.

Husband's Dunham Hills Golf Club is one of those courses where this can happen quite easily. Yet, even if this does occur, you'll still find yourself having a ball.

But be warned, you'd better carefully clean your putting goggles before setting foot on the scenic and sprawling grounds at 13561 Dunham Road.

Dunham Hills Golf Club head professional Mike Spranger didn't hesitate when asked what makes the course unique.

"I would say the greens, the putting," he said. "They're very difficult and challenging."

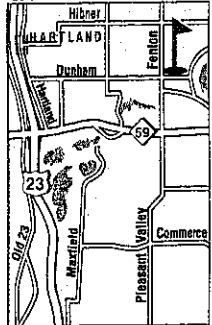
Indeed, the undulating greens require careful concentration, as subtle breaks can send even the softest stroke of putts careening in the wrong direction.

But once you hole out and step off the green, you'll find that you can't escape these undulations. Quite simply, they're everywhere.

"The second thing about this course is the hills, and all the uneven lies you can get," Spranger said.

Sometimes the ball will be above your feet as you're addressing it. Sometimes, below. It all

Dunham Hills Golf Club



Map by DIANA WELLS

"It's a tough course to try to overpower."

Mike Spranger
Dunham Hills Golf Club head pro

depends on what hole you happen to be playing.

Sound like an adventure? You better believe it.

Dunham Hills has been around since 1967, just one of numerous golf courses that lie within a mile or so of M-59 in the Livingston

County-Oakland County stretch. With its lush slices of wilderness and galloping hills, Dunham Hills has been providing area residents with splendid views and challenging golf ever since.

"People who play here are usually very complimentary of the condition of this course," Spranger said.

Distance-wise, Dunham Hills is on the longer side, measuring out at 6,291 yards from the white tees. The front nine consists of a pair of par 3s, a par 5 and the rest par 4s, the longest measuring out at 447 yards (the sixth hole). The par-5 second hole, at 505 yards, is reachable in two shots by the big hitters, but a prudent three-shot approach is recommended for average golfers. The par 3s are 135 yards (fifth hole) and 191 yards (eighth hole).

Slightly longer than the front nine, the back nine features two par 5s this time around in addition to two par 3s.

The first four holes will have you reaching for your longer irons, starting off with the 400-yard par-4 10th hole and continuing with the lengthy par-3 11th hole (215 yards).

The two par 5s are up next, one right after another, measuring out at respective distances of 511 and 538 yards. Tempting as it is to slam a fairway wood on your second shot in hopes of reaching either green, it's definitely wiser to play these holes for what they are—par 5s. Pitching onto the green on your third shot is def-

initely preferable to stomping through the woods looking for your lost ball.

Four par 4s—only one of which measures out at over 400 yards—and a pleasant but dangerous 116-yard par 3 (16th hole) round out the remaining holes.

Everybody knows how fun it is to try to hit a John Daly-sized shot off the tee, but Spranger pointed out that this isn't a safe approach when playing Dunham Hills—



The par-3 16th hole, at 116 yards, is pleasant to look at but tricky to play, what with the intimidating presence of water in front of the green and woods behind it.

especially those par 5s on the back nine.

"It's a tough course to try to overpower," he said. "You're better off just to go for what you see. Don't try to do too much, like hitting it an extra 10 yards, because those extra 10 yards can get you in trouble."

So, in short, just try to keep it in the fairway. Short, safe shots are much better than longer unpredictable ones.

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Pro tip

Dunham Hills head professional Mike Spranger, on shots from the sand:

"The biggest mistake people make in sand traps is, they have too much lower body action. You want to take the lower body out of the shot, and you don't want to do a lot of turning. This can lead to inconsistent shots; you'll either hit it thin—or by pulling up—or hit way too far behind the ball. For short bunker shots, keep your lower body still and try to hit two inches behind the ball. And follow through, by all means."

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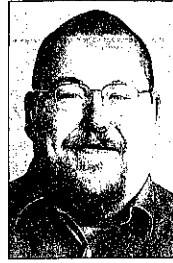
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Novi soccer thanks 'Stangs



Sam Eggleston

How often does a team thank it's bitter rivals?

The Novi Wildcats girls soccer team, coached by Brian O'Leary, secured a Division 1 state title last Saturday. Hard work, dedication and determination were the deciding factors this year in their undefeated season.

The only bump in the road? A tie against Northville.

"I think that really helped," said Brian O'Leary, Novi's head coach. "If we would have beat them we probably wouldn't have made it here."

So how does a game that takes place in the opening weeks of the regular season play a factor in a state championship game? Well, it prompted the Wildcats to come out with their best-ever game against Northville in the district tournament finals.

"That's definitely the most memorable game of the year," said Sarah Schmitt. "We didn't just beat them, we whipped them."

"That's an understatement. The Wildcats earned a 4-1 victory over the defending Division I state champions by playing an emotional game as they've played all year.

The defense was remarkable, controlling nearly every aspect of the game.

"I think it's the best game we've played all season," said defender Kelly Hebert. "They are really strong offensively and we had to play our best to win. We did."

The Novi Wildcats earned four goals while allowing just one to stellar forward Lauren Hill. It was a victory that signaled the rest of the season.

Novi went on to shut out the remainder of the teams they played, beating Saline, 2-0; Canton, 1-0; Troy, 5-0; and Brighton, 3-0, to earn the state title.

"I'm not saying I would have been satisfied with just a win over Northville, but it definitely was the highlight of the season," said Kristi Timar, who was selected as Michigan's Ms. Soccer Monday night. "That was as big as the state championship to us."

O'Leary agreed, saying the victory was a mirror of what happened last year when Northville beat Novi in the district final and marched on a fairly easy path to the championship.

Novi didn't look back after pounding Northville, but it doesn't mean the game meant any less to them.

"I think we played just as emotional in that game as we did against Brighton," said senior midfielder Sarah Schmitt. "That's why our celebration was so big after that game. It was our state championship."

The Wildcats weren't taking away anything from their title match. They met the Bulldogs and beat them fair and square. But it wasn't the same. There was something visceral in the Northville match. An animal instinct that led them to play as well as they did.

"Scoring three goals against Northville was just amazing," said the usually quiet Katie Walker. "That was probably the biggest moment for me this year."

The biggest moment for everyone. The Wildcats secured the win and went on to not only stay undefeated for an entire year, but show the state their program had finally arrived.

"That was a huge win for us," Stephanie Crawford said. "I think we looked at that game like it was the real state championship. I know we played like it was."

It's not very often a Novi team is going to consider a Northville squad a benefit to their season. But from all of the Wildcats to all of the Mustangs, there's no doubt going to be a big "thank you."

"If it wasn't for that game, we wouldn't be state champions," said Kim Herbst. "It was the best game of the entire season without a doubt. We just played phenomenal."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@hi.homecom.net.



Novi's Stephanie Crawford, left, flies over the outstretched leg of Brighton's Joanna Killunen during last Saturday's state finals game. Novi won the game 3-0 and with that the state championship in Div. 1.

UNTOUCHABLE

Novi not deterred by physical play

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The third times the charm? That's what the Brighton fans' sign said at least.

The Brighton Bulldogs had two sets of three that were supposed to be working in their favor in the Division I state girls soccer finals last Saturday in Troy when they took on Novi.

First, it was their third trip to the finals game in four years. It was also their third time playing Novi this year.

In the end, it was the Novi Wildcats who had the only three that mattered—three goals in a 3-0 victory for the first-ever state championship in the program's history.

"Oh my God," said senior forward Kristi Timar of the championship. "It's just overwhelming. It's amazing we've won a state championship."

Timar's eyes were welled up with tears as the celebrations following the game reached their pinnacle. She wasn't sure why she was crying, at least not at first.

"I wasn't sure if it was because I was happy or because I was said it was over," she said. "I figured it out later it was both. It was just a bunch of emotions that came out."

Stephanie Crawford said, "I think we looked at that game like it was the real state championship. I know we played like it was."

Novi knew it wasn't going to be easy to beat their Kensington Valley Conference rivals—especially since it was their third meeting.

"It's hard when they have to change

things and you're not sure what to expect," said senior defender Kelly Hebert. "We were a little cautious at first and they came at us hard. We just had to do what we always do."

Which was play some very tenacious defense and get the ball on the ground.

Novi coach Brian O'Leary said he knew there would be potential for his team to get pressured right away.

"You're going to get a little excited for a game like this one," he said. "After we subbed in some players, I told the starters to grab a drink and settle down and then I got them back in. We were fine after that."

Novi also had to find a way to keep the ball on the ground. After losing several 50-50 balls, the Wildcats got things under control.

"We like to keep the ball on the ground," said Kellie Walker. "That's just the way we play. Once we were able to do that, we started to get comfortable and play our game instead of theirs."

Turning of the tide

About midway through the first half the momentum took a turn in favor of the Wildcats. Katie Walker scored off a corner kick to put Novi up 1-0.

"It was exciting," Walker said. "I'm so glad we won."

The record stayed stagnant through the remainder of the first half with Brighton getting a convincing shot on goal off the foot of Bri Avedisian—who had 29 goals this season—which was stopped cold by All-State goalie Kim Herbst.

Herbst said she didn't mind having the pressure in the game.

"I like the action," she said. "It can get pretty boring when there aren't any shots."

Brighton, once again, brought a physical game to the field. The strategy, it seemed, was to keep leading scorer Stephanie Crawford on the turf more than on her feet.

Crawford didn't score, but she still kept the defense busy.

"I just wanted to win," she said. "I just kept playing harder. That's what kept me going. They kept knocking me down but I kept getting up. It kept them from being able to do the things they wanted to do."

Novi's Lauren Marchioni helps a Brighton Bulldog to the ground during last weekend's state finals game at Troy. Novi gave as well as it got in the game, with a number of players taking an unintended tumble to the pitch.

The Wildcats tallied their second goal of the night about 10 minutes into the second half when Sarah Schmitt snugged a pass from Lauren Marchioni and fired the ball past the Brighton goalie, Ashley Tenby.

Schmitt was nearly knocked over by the celebration of her teammates follow-

ing the 2-0 lead.

"What else could you ask for?" Schmitt said. "I won a state championship and scored a goal too."

The Wildcats added their final tally with just under a minute remaining to seal the victory, 3-0. Timar took the ball down the field, broke through the defense and dished a pass to Walker, who found the back of the net.

Rankings in the end, meant nothing. The Wildcats didn't need a poll to tell them they were the best. They proved it.

"It's such a great feeling," Schmitt said. "No one even knows what to say. Our emotions tell it all though. It was a great season and this was the best way to go out."

"That's the way to end it. As state champs."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@hi.homecom.net.



Novi's Lauren Marchioni helps a Brighton Bulldog to the ground during last weekend's state finals game at Troy. Novi gave as well as it got in the game, with a number of players taking an unintended tumble to the pitch.

THE CAT'S MEOW!

Novi wins finale to keep purr-fect season, 24-0-1



Novi's Katie Walker leaps past a slumped Brighton goalkeeper after Walker scored Novi's first and the game-winning goal late in the first half of Saturday's game.



Novi's Kellie Walker, right, battles Brighton's Chantal Koechl for the ball during last weekend's state finals game.



Wildcat Stephanie Crawford sent this shot off the far post of the Bulldogs' goal in the second half of last Saturday's game at Troy High School.



Novi's Stephanie Crawford, left, and Sarah Schmitt celebrate one of the Wildcats' three goals.



Novi goalie Kim Herbst yells instructions to her teammates as Brighton approaches the Wildcats' net during last Saturday's finals game; ABOVE: Sarah Schmitt (6) is congratulated by her teammates after scoring the second goal of the game on Novi's way to a 3-0 win in the state finals.

Memories wrapped in tape

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It started as a piece of tape, rolled between then-freshman Sarah Schmitt's index finger and thumb. Now, four years later, it weighs 13 pounds.

The "tape ball" as everyone refers to it, looks suspiciously like a soccer ball wrapped in multi-colored athletic tape.

"Some people have even, mistakenly kicked it," Schmitt said. "That's not a good idea."

Schmitt, who carries the ball around in a bag due to its size, started the ball as a freshman along with Maureen Pawlak, a sophomore at the time who has since moved on to Michigan State University.

They were sitting in the back of the bus on the way back from a varsity soccer match when Schmitt was removing the tape that helped keep her socks in place. It was then she decided to put it to good use.

"It's not a huge thing because a lot of people make tape balls from their seasons, but they usually throw them out," Schmitt said. "We decided to make the biggest tape ball of all. From then on, we've been adding to it, but only from our high school games."

Various players have contributed over the years, including many from this year's state championship game.

But Schmitt is graduating. She has the option of passing the responsibilities of the tape ball on and has already picked Jessica Barnit as her successor much as Pawlak picked Lauren Marchioni to carry on her half of the tradition.

The ball, however, may not see much more tape tacked on to it.

As with every season, the entire Wildcat team will sign the ball. This year, it may just end up in the trophy case.

"Everyone is going to sign it and it will get put in there," said junior



Novi's Kellie Walker adds her call-tape to the team's tape ball after the Wildcat victory against Troy in the MHSAA state semi-finals.

Kellie Walker. "I think that would be great."

Schmitt thinks so too, but said it's still tempting to remove some memories by cutting the ball in half and seeing the generations of tape inside.

She said there is everything from "every color" of athletic tape to duct tape to electrical tape.

"I even think there might be some masking tape in there because we ran out of tape once," she said.

And along with the adhesive strips, there's plenty of memories and the blood, sweat and tears that made them.

Schmitt said if it stays in rotation, Marchioni and Barnit will have plenty of extra work logging it

Walker twins commit

Western Kentucky gets twin standouts

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's official. The Walker twins won't be getting separated any time soon.

The girls, Kellie and Katie, recently committed their soccer skills to the University of Western Kentucky.

"The coach is really nice and the campus is so pretty," said Katie. "It just felt like the right fit to us."

The twins said they are planning on studying to become teachers while they're at the institution.

Playing soccer is just icing on the cake for them.

"It's a great sport and we love playing it," said Kellie. "It's a great opportunity to get the chance to play in college."

Though no exact numbers have been put on the table until the girls are ready to sign their letters of national intent to play for the school, the Walkers said there has been talk of a scholarship.

Western Kentucky was hardly the only school interested in having the two girls come and play for them. Ball State, Indiana State and Middle Tennessee State were just a few of the other institutions that had contacted them.

Though Western Kentucky isn't the most competitive out of the programs that have shown interest in the twins, they said it was just how their visit felt that persuaded them to go.

"The girls were so nice too," said Kellie. "It was just all kinds of little things that were combined to make us feel like we fit in."

The twins said staying fairly close to home was a key component in their collegiate searches. Their parents — John and Lisa — are big fans of theirs, as is their younger brother, John, who is 11.

"They love coming to our games," Kellie noted. "I think it's their life."

Novi's head coach Brian O'Leary said he was happy for the girls and noted he expects to see them grow even more through their senior year.

"They are becoming quite the players," he said. "Both have always had skill, determination and excellent work ethic, but this season, because of their added maturity, they are having great success."

Kellie, who plays center mid-field, has 13 goals and 11 assists. She earned All-Conference, All-District, All-Region and the All-State Honorable Mention teams.

Katie, on the other hand, plays outside mid-field and had 10 goals and 11 assists. She earned All-Conference and All-District honors this year.

"Both have a knack of coming through in the clutch this season," O'Leary added, noting Katie's three goals in a 4-1 win over Northville in the district title game and Kellie's game-winning goal against Ann Arbor Pioneer. She also had a goal and an assist against Brighton, the state runner-up, and the game-winning goal against Saline.

The girls said soccer has been fun for both of them. They aren't often singled out because, for the most part, people refer to them as either the "twins" or the "sisters."

"I don't mind," said Katie. "That's how it has always been. We've always been referred to as the Walkers or something like that. It doesn't bother me at all."

If you can tell them apart, then you're steps ahead of most people. If you can't — well, it doesn't matter because they're equally dangerous when it comes to their ability to add to the scoreboard and to their team's success.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@thome.com.net.

Novi's Kellie Walker adds her call-tape to the team's tape ball after the Wildcat victory against Troy in the MHSAA state semi-finals.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Hilary Duff Heather Locklear Chris Noth

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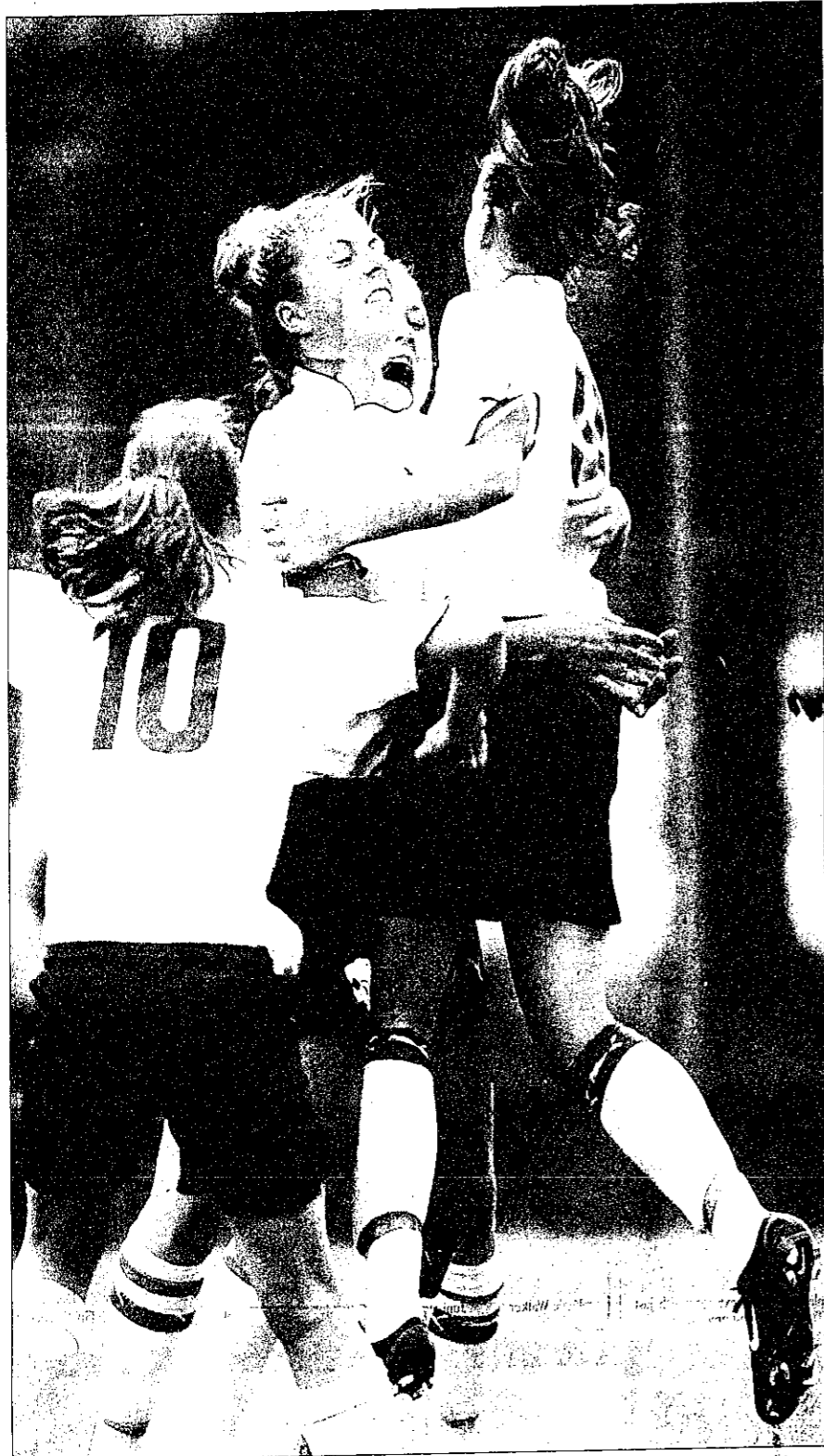
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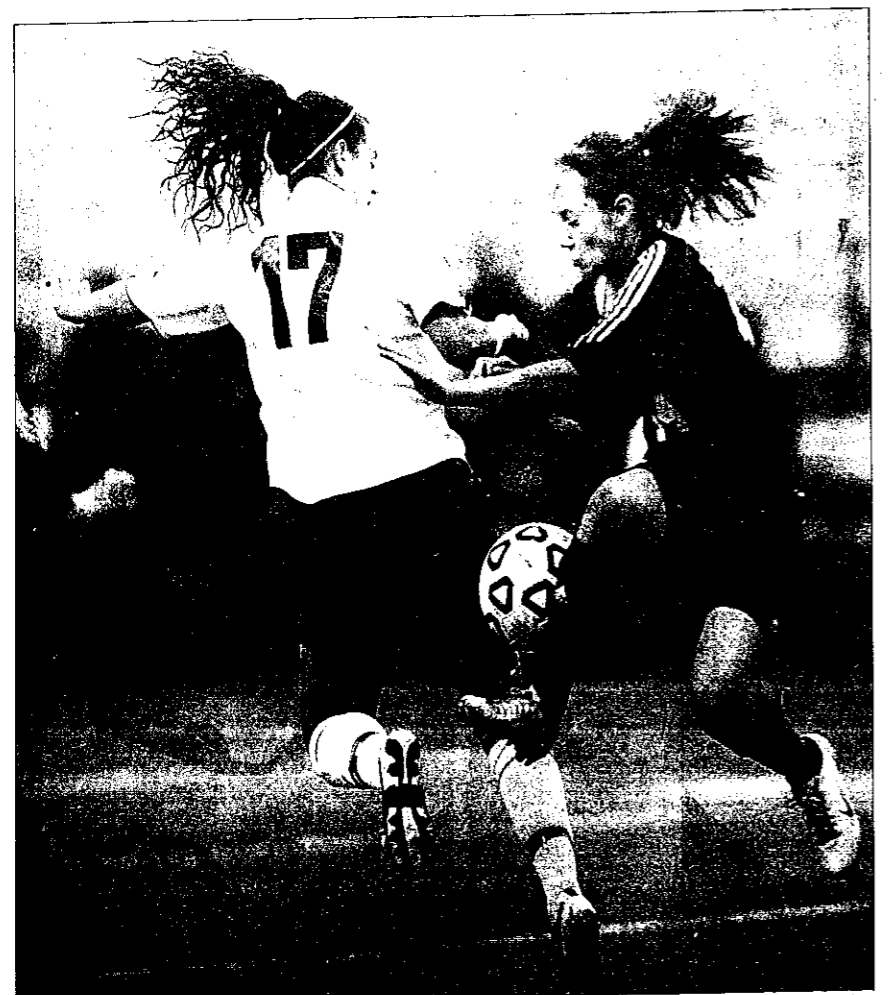
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Photos by JOHN HEIDER and SAM EGGLESTON



After scoring their first and the game's winning goal, Novi's Katie Walker, right, leaps into the arms of teammate Sarah Schmitt as Kellie Walker, left, and another Wildcat join the celebration during last week's semi-final victory against Troy.

Where the Wildcats are



Novi's Emily Esbrook, left, goes up for a header against Troy's Eileen Larkin.

TROJAN HORSE

■ Troy falls to Novi offensive

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

When you get knocked off a horse you're supposed to pick yourself back up, brush off the dust and climb back on to try again.

But what happens when you get kicked by a Colt?

The Novi Wildcats did what they're best at doing. They grit their teeth, took the kick and then did a little kicking their own as they marched to a 5-0 victory over Troy in last week's state semi-final game. Novi came a berth to the state finals with the win.

"It was a game between two teams with completely contrasting styles," said Novi coach Brian O'Leary. "Troy is a big team that plays physical, is very good in the air and likes to kick the ball up to the forwards and stay back on defense to make it difficult for the opposition to score."

Novi, on the other hand, is much smaller, athletic and likes to keep the ball on the ground. Novi's way, it proved, was the better way to go.

The Wildcats talked their first goal of the night 18 minutes into the game when Katie Walker headed in a redirection by Sarah Schmitt. The Colts backed down for the following 10 minutes, but two strong saves by goalie Kim Herbst kept Troy off the board and led to a 2-0 lead as Schmitt used her head to put the ball

in the back of the net on an Emily Esbrook free kick.

In the second half, the Colts came out with a completely different look than in the first. They played with four defenders in two forwards in the first half, but changed to a three-and-three formation in the second.

For the opening 15 minutes of the second half, Troy kept solid pressure on the Wildcats. O'Leary credited his defense for not panicking.

"The defense of Jessica Barndt, Kelly Hebert, Lauren Marchioni and Kristine Chaklos stayed very calm and organized to sustain the initial pressure," he said. "Because (Troy) sacrificed a defender to generate more offense, we then started to get some good chances."

About 20 minutes into the second half, Pia Janssens took a pass from Kristi Timar in the corner, beat a defender and fired a lofting shot into the far corner of the net to give Novi a 3-0 lead.

Through the final 30 minutes of play, Troy continued to push their players up in hopes of getting an offensive surge, but Stephanie Crawford — who was being knocked to the ground constantly in the contest — slid behind the defense for two back-to-back break-away goals to seal the victory. Esbrook assisted on both scores.

"We won all of our games and a state title," she said. "It seems almost like a picture-perfect season. I'm very satisfied. I'm very happy. It was perfect."

Novi's Kristi Timar, right, gets her head on a ball in front of Brighton's Chantal Koechil (#14) during last Saturday's MHSAA girls' state finals game.

Novi's Emily Esbrook, left, goes up for a header against Troy's Eileen Larkin.

Novi's Katie Walker, right, leaps into the arms of teammate Sarah Schmitt as Kellie Walker, left, and another Wildcat join the celebration during last week's semi-final victory against Troy.



ABOVE: Wildcat goalie Kim Herbst makes a save in front of a hard-charging Troy's Allison Najarian. Herbst and the Wildcats shut out Troy for the game and won 5-0. LEFT: Novi High's Stephanie Crawford, left, goes up for the air to contest Troy's Nicole Vallanatos for the ball during last Wednesday night's semi-final playoff victory.

PHOTOS BY
JOHN HEIDER

Timar is Ms. Soccer

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Tell Novi forward Kristi Timar she's officially the best soccer player in the state and she smiles a little and a hint of blush can almost be seen.

"I'd never have put myself as the best player in the state," she said. "I've played with people on other teams that I know are just as capable."

Timar isn't feigning the modesty either. She truly doesn't believe she's the best of the best.

Thankfully, she wasn't the one voting. The Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association were and when the voting was done Timar was the clear-cut winner.

"What else is there to say?" said her coach, Brian O'Leary. "The fact that she won Ms. Soccer sums it up. She's a fantastic all-around player that can play any position and is willing to do whatever it takes for her team to win. She could care less about her own statistics, only wins and losses. She's a tremendous leader."

And a tremendous player. Timar scored 28 goals this season and had 19 assists. Over the course of her career, she had 64 goals and 48 assists. Over the four years she's been on varsity, the Wildcats have gone 72-6-6.

"I could never have done as well as I have if it wasn't for my team," she said. "When they play well, I play well."

It helps that the Wildcats had Emily Esbrook, who earned All-State Dream Team honors and All-State First Team recognition. Stephanie Crawford earned All-State Second Team honors while goalie Kim Herbst earned All-State Third Team and Kellie Walker was All-State Honorable Mention.

In addition to the players, O'Leary was named the Coach of the Year.

Timar wasn't just Ms. Soccer either. She earned All-State Dream Team and First Team honors too.

When all was said and done, Timar said this was the best a senior soccer player could possibly ask for.

"We won all of our games and a state title," she said. "It seems almost like a picture-perfect season. I'm very satisfied. I'm very happy. It was perfect."

"She is a pure forward that has speed, power and a rocket of a shot,"



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Kristi Timar, right, gets her head on a ball in front of Brighton's Chantal Koechil (#14) during last Saturday's MHSAA girls' state finals game.

All-State selections

The Wildcats had plenty to offer the All-State selection crew. Esbrook had 10 goals and 16 assists and is one of the best players around.

"She's the main reason we play the style of soccer that we do," O'Leary said. "We are a possession soccer team that keeps the ball on the ground. We move the ball in an outside to inside to outside pattern very often and this is because of Emily."

"When the ball comes in from the outside she immediately settles it down, no matter how difficult the ball coming in was, and distributes it perfectly back to the outside players."

Walker added 12 goals and 11 assists to Novi's season totals.

"She is a tireless player that never stops working and running on the field," O'Leary said.

Three out of the five All-State players return next year with just Timar and Herbst graduating.

O'Leary earns Coach of the Year honors

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Monday night, Brian O'Leary happily reported that several of his players earned All-State recognition. One even earned the title of Ms. Soccer, or the best player in the state.

What O'Leary didn't bother to note was the fact that he was named Coach of the Year.

"He's like that," said O'Leary's wife, Kollene. "He'd never say he got an award like that."

It was an honor O'Leary deserved. His team was the Kensington Valley Conference champions, which was no small task considering the team the Wildcats beat in the state finals also hailed from that league. His team was also undefeated with a 24-0-1 record. Oh yeah, he's also the coach of the current Division I state champions.

O'Leary didn't say anything about his recognition because he doesn't think he needs to. This year's coaching is no different than his coaching over his entire career. It's no different than the teaching he does in his mathematics classroom at Novi High School.

"Coaching and teaching go together hand-in-hand," he said. "I just try to do the best I can in everything I do."

His wife agreed. She said her husband may seem dedicated to his team during games and practices, but it's behind the scenes that people don't see. He's been that way since they started dating in high school. He was probably that way when they first met at Webster Elementary School in Livonia.

"He puts more time and dedication into all of the soccer he does than anyone I know of," he said. "Other coaches have commented about his coaching and his scouting. He even has other coaches calling him for scouting reports."

"That's how he is with every-



Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Novi head coach Brian O'Leary gets a hug from his wife, Kollene, after the state finals as his two daughters watch.

DID YOU KNOW?

O'Leary was an all-state soccer player in his high school days at Livonia Churchill. Back then, only the top 20 players were named to the squad.

"They totally kick the world revolves around their father," she said. "They're happy for their dad. He deserves that kind of looking up to. A lot of kids feel that way about their dads, but he really deserves it. I'm glad he's been that kind of dad for them."

On Father's Day, O'Leary wasn't spending his time accepting congratulations or awards. Instead, he was at his Novi home watching his kids play in the pool.

"My family supports me and the program," said O'Leary. "I'm glad they're a part of all of it. It would be a lot harder without them."

Through it all, she balances her time with their three children: Abby, who is 9 years old; Connor,

7; and Erin, 5.

Even though O'Leary is busy at times during the season, his kids make a point of spending as much time with him as they can when he's home, said Kollene.

"They totally kick the world revolves around their father," she said. "They're happy for their dad. He deserves that kind of looking up to. A lot of kids feel that way about their dads, but he really deserves it. I'm glad he's been that kind of dad for them."

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2005 Division I State Champion Novi Wildcats Girls Soccer Team				
NAME	GRADE	POSITION	DEFENSE	GOALKEEPER
Katie Chaklos	Freshman	Defense	Junior	Midfield
Megan Stec	Sophomore	Midfield	Junior	Defense
Emily Esbrook	Sophomore	Midfield	Senior	Defense
Lauren Trober	Junior	Forward	Senior	Defense
Pia Janssens	Sophomore	Midfield	Senior	Forward
Sarah Schmitt	Senior	Midfield	Senior	Defense
Chelsea Atiyeh	Senior	Midfield	Freshman	Midfield
Jessica Barndt	Sophomore	Defense	Kristine Chaklos	Sophomore
Kellie Walker	Junior	Midfield	Kim Herbst	Senior

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Thursday, June 23, 2005

NFIB UPDATE

Small-Business Focus: Who's Afraid of a Little Competition?

Ah, the traditional signs of summer – salt air, suntan lotion and that pungent smell without which no vacation trip is complete – the fumes of expensive gasoline. Although skyrocketing gas prices consume much of the nation's news coverage, it is a challenge that can be controlled by the most-proven tenet of free-market economics: competition – customers shopping around for the lowest price.

Imagine how quickly

America's health-care crisis could be solved if competition were allowed there. Instead, powerful insurance monopolies are determined to fight

Jack Faris

and keep their profit margins high at the expense of millions of small businesses that today are subject to 50 different state regulations governing health insurance.

According to the General Accounting Office, five or fewer insurers control at least three-quarters of the small-group insurance market. This lack of competition contributes to double-digit premium increases for many small businesses and forces an increase in the number of their employees who are uninsured.

Currently, 27 million working Americans are uninsured; 63 percent of those are either self-employed or work for a small business with less than 100 employees. The crippling burden of having to deal with state insurance regulations and the sky-high premiums they create is a problem in search of a solution. That solution is the enactment of a federal law to allow the creation of small-business health plans.

Three decades ago, Congress passed the Employee Income Security Act that pre-empted state insurance regulations for corporations and labor union organizations. The move allowed these large entities to self-insure under one uniform federal statute, thus taking advantage of group purchasing, volume discounts and administrative efficiencies.

One of the great mysteries of Capitol Hill is how a sector of the economy that represents 99.7 percent of all employers provides jobs for half of the private-sector workforce and generates 60 percent to 80 percent of net-new American jobs each year got overlooked to begin with. But it is long past time to undo that mistake.

The temptation for lawmakers to flee the nation's capital as warmer weather approaches is always strong, but the National Federation of Independent Business has called on its 600,000 small-business members to turn up the heat in Washington, D.C., to demand that Congress finally bring fairness and competition to the health insurance market by enacting the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005.

Twice-approved by the House of Representatives during the last Congress (the Senate did not act), the measure would open the way to fair, competitive health insurance for small firms by letting them band together across state lines to buy insurance through their bona fide trade associations. By making insurance more affordable, more small firms will provide it to their employees and families. Research indicates that as many as 8.5 million previously uninsured workers could get coverage if the act is passed.

Who's afraid of a little competition? That's a question members of Congress should ask those few insurance monopolies with the big profit margins.

Jack Faris, ranked as the most influential small-business leader in Washington by *Fortune Small Business* magazine, is the President and CEO of NFIB.

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ADVERTORIAL

Engagements, Weddings, thoughts of Love and Rottermond Jewelers

Summer is near, and that brings thoughts of love . . . engagements . . . and weddings.

Rottermond Jewelers of Milford offers a wide variety of engagement rings and wedding rings for both brides and grooms. In addition, Rottermonds is one of only a few stores in Southeast Michigan selected as distributors for "Hearts on Fire" diamonds.

"Hearts on Fire" diamonds are "The World's Most Perfectly Cut Diamond". Less than one percent of all gem-quality diamonds are chosen to become a Hearts on Fire diamond. It takes a master diamond cutter four times longer to create the special Hearts on Fire diamond than any other diamond because it is cut to 100 power magnification – the most intricate and exacting standards in the world.

Once the cutting is completed, the Hearts on Fire diamond reflects 100 percent of the available light from the diamond to one's eyes, lighting up the "fire" of all the colors in the spectrum. Each Hearts on Fire diamond appears larger than other diamonds of the same size.

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

"Hearts on Fire diamonds received their name because when they are viewed upside down under a small ProportionScope, the diamonds reveal a perfect pattern of eight symmetrical hearts. When one views the diamonds from above, one will see a symmetrical fire burst phenomenon," explained Cindi Rottermond, company vice president.

The popularity of Hearts on Fire diamonds continues to grow, according to Cindi. In the April/May issue of *Modern Bride* magazine, Kelly Rowland (*Destiny's Child*) was featured wearing the Hearts on Fire Opulence necklace and earrings.

In addition, Melissa Fitzgerald, who stars on "The West Wind" as Carol Fitzpatrick, wore Hearts on Fire indulgence flex bangle bracelets and hoop earrings to the hottest Oscar parties in town.

Rottermond Jewelers is also a distributor of Scott Kay bridal designs in either 19 karat yellow gold or platinum. Engagements sets, semi-mounts, solitaires and wedding bands are all available.

"When one thinks of wedding rings, he or she thinks of Scott Kay. His designs are in all of the most read bridal and fashion magazines."

Gregg Ruth is another top designer who is featuring fancy yellow and pink diamonds in bridal rings, Cindi noted. Sometimes Ruth also uses sapphires, rubies and emeralds for very interesting, intense color – all available at Rottermond's.

As the area's exclusive dealer of patented Tycoon cut diamonds, Rottermond's offers a superior cut to the traditional emerald cut diamond. The Tycoon cut signature with a GIA (Gemological Institute of

She's Perfect.
Should Her Diamond Be Anything Less?

Available at
ROTTERMOND
MILFORD BRIGHTON

America) certificate number of the stone is inscribed into the grid of the diamond without detracting from the diamond's sparkle. The inscription is invisible to the naked eye, but can be viewed under the jeweler's microscope – an indication of authenticity.

In men's wedding bands, Rottermond Jewelers is offering linked, expandable bands by Furrer Jacot of England in both white and yellow gold. "If a man has trouble with his hands and fingers swelling, this is the ring for him," said Cindi.

Couples wishing to purchase special rings have the option of having them custom made at Rottermonds. George Teufel and Eric Larvick, custom and award winning designers for Rottermond Jewelers, will work with couples to design and manufacture exactly what the couples want for their rings.

Unlike most jewelry stores, the Rottermond staff is highly educated. Libby Dart, Ron Peterson, Randy Steele and Fred Peterson are all Graduate Gemologists, with two staffers as diamond graduates and one

ROTTERMOND
Milford Location
351 N. Main Street
Downtown Milford
248.685.1150



staffer attending GIA diamond training. All are qualified to assist couples in purchasing only the finest of diamonds or other gemstones. In addition, a wide variety of wedding gift items is offered at Rottermonds. Pearls, bracelets,

Cut: Proportions, Symmetry, Polish

The cut of a diamond truly determines both its beauty and value. What you see with a Hearts On Fire diamond is an unequalled marriage of math and physics, resulting in the world's most perfectly cut diamond. You don't have to be an expert to understand why – you just have to look through the Proportion Scope™ to see the remarkable difference a Hearts On Fire diamond exhibits.

The difference is perfection
It's a difference you can see.™

earrings or pendants would make any bride ecstatic. The bride will also find a wide variety of gifts for her bridesmaids. For couples who stop by Rottermond Jewelers to shop for their rings, the company gives them a free bridal gift of a satin

jewelry box containing two champagne glasses and trays for jewelry. Rottermond even has an engraved plate added to make the gift even more sentimental. Rottermond Jewelers wishes only the best for couples celebrating the season of love.

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