



Novi News



Your hometown newspaper celebrating its 50th year serving Novi and the Lakes area

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Novi, Michigan

50¢

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INSIDE



A new life

Dora, left, and Vic Voynov have begun a new life in Michigan, working at Novi's Fox Run Village, after spending most of their lives in Bulgaria. — Page 8A



Valuable volunteer

Novi Senior Center kitchen and Meals on Wheel volunteer Florence Baptist prepares a meal for a resident on a Friday morning. — Page 19A

SPORTS

First win

Junior Adam Chandler found the endzone to help Novi football to a big victory in their season opener at Chelsea. — 3B

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Ernie Aruffo's Novi home is filled with photos that he's taken over the years ranging from shot of his family, gardens, or trips to the southwest U.S. and Belize.

Founding Father

Ernest Aruffo had a hand in making Novi what it is today

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Surviving a gunshot wound during a robbery would probably be reason enough for most to shut down their business, but not Ernest Aruffo. Though, he was shot in the groin, he managed to pick up his floor covering business and move out of Detroit and into Northville in the spring of 1976. "It was hit in the leg, near the groin, which is where your main lateral artery is," Aruffo said.

"That's what killed Aretha Franklin's father. That's when we figured it was time to leave. We were doing so well there. We had a beautiful set of stores."

Aruffo put his business in the Northville Plaza Mall and his residence in Novi. That's when he started getting involved in many different organizations and commissions. Today, he is credited with having a hand in many of Novi's endeavors and accomplishments.

He started out by involving himself with Strong Water Planning, which arranged for all the drainage water, sewers and retention ponds in Novi. He was then appointed to the planning board and soon became chairman.

Aruffo then offered his services to commissions which dealt with improving 12 Mile, Novi

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Fans hunt for game parking

Catholic Central finds other options for its fans

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Last Friday night the scene at the entrance to Catholic Central's parking lot was, to say the least, a mess.

The school's lot was packed full hours before the kickoff of the football team's first-ever home game, and attendants were turning cars back toward Wixom Road.

"Your best bet is either the Target parking lot or Meijer's," the attendant said. "There's a shuttle from Meijer's."

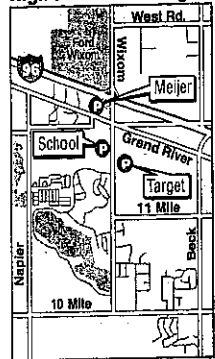
The parking lot of choice ended up being Target where students, alumni, fans and football fanatics parked their cars. Meijer's lot wasn't empty either, with school bus shuttles taking people from the lot to practically the front steps of the school's new stadium. "They approached me and conveyed that they expected a lot of alumni and guests at their home football games," said Deb Atkins, the store director for the Meijer located on Grand River and Wixom roads. "They asked if they could use part of our parking lot, and we were very happy to do it."

The Meijer parking has clear signs reading "Catholic Central Event Parking" for fans to easily recognize.

Target, however, didn't last Friday when over 5,000 people packed the stands at Catholic Central. The scene was a bit more hectic there, with fans parking where they weren't supposed to on several occasions.

"There was a guy in the lot that told us to park in the back of the store," said a fan from Northville High School. "We just waited until he wasn't looking and parked closer and then told him

Catholic Central High School Parking



Map by DIANA WELLS

we found a spot in back."

A meeting between representatives from Catholic Central and Target took place Tuesday afternoon and store team leader Trenton Topp said there won't be any changes in the agreement. "Fans are allowed to park north of the stadium in the parking lot," he said. "They are also allowed to use the back of the building."

Topp said Catholic Central administration, without even being asked, has taken steps to make sure the parking will be much more organized for future home games.

"The Dad's Club has volunteered to stand in the parking lot and direct fans where to go," he said. "It was nice of them to offer to do that."

Though last Friday after the game people stood in line for over 45 minutes waiting for the shuttles to take them back to the game, Catholic Central athletics director Bob Santello said he thought it all worked out well.

"It was a first run and we didn't know how it was all going to work out, though it looked to be OK on paper," he said. "Overall,

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Heroic movie comes to Novi

Stories from volunteers during 9/11 are finally told

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Jerry Holtzman spent 12 long days witnessing first-hand the devastation of ground zero. Holtzman, a paid-on-call fire fighter for the city of Novi and a member of the national disaster medical assistance team, only has memories of how the world looked during its most vulnerable days after Sept. 11, 2001. Holtzman was interested to hear about a new documentary coming to Emagine Theater in Novi, Sept. 9, depicting the heroic efforts of thousands of emergency personnel and volunteers

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"Answering The Call" premieres Sept. 9. For more information visit www.answeringthecall911.com.

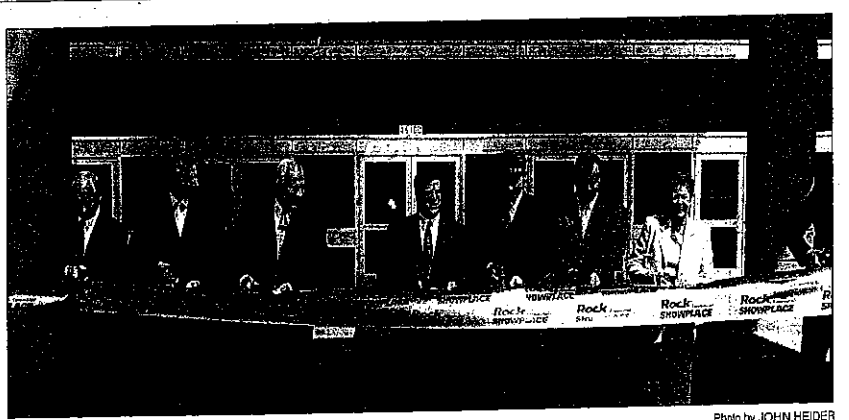


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi Rocks

An All-star cast cuts the ribbon last Friday officially opening Novi's Rock Financial Showplace. Included are (left to right) James Tesen, V.P. Commercial Banking for Standard Federal; Novi Mayor Lou Csordas; Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson; Showplace owner Blair Bowman; Rock Senior Vice President David Hall; Michigan Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche; Michigan State Senator Nancy Cassis; and U.S. Representative Thaddeus McCotter. For more on the new center, please see page 9.

Wellinger case bound over to circuit court

Doctor says driver was still drunk next morning

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Thomas Wellinger will face three counts of second degree murder tomorrow. Wellinger, 49, of Farmington

Hills, will be arraigned at 8:30 a.m. in Oakland County Circuit Court in Pontiac.

He will be charged with the deaths of Judith Weinstein, 49, and her sons, Alex, 12, and Sam, 9.

The three died in a crash at 3:25 p.m. May 3 when Wellinger slammed his 2005 GMC Yukon Denali into the Weinsteins' 1999 Honda Accord. His blood alcohol was measured after the accident at .43 percent.

Officials say Wellinger, who didn't hit the court until Aug. 22," said Oakland County

Assistant Prosecutor Ken Frazee. Frazee said Aug. 26 that authorities checked Wellinger's blood alcohol level three times. Each time, the result was higher than .08 percent, the legal limit set by the state for a drunk driving conviction.

"He was still over the legal limit at 7 o'clock the next morning," Frazee said. Wellinger's blood alcohol level was measured while he was in William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak

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Ernest Aruffo had a hand in making Novi what it is today

continued from front page

Ronal and M.S. Aruffo explained that M.S. was originally supposed to be 1-275 and was to extend north all the way up to I-75. "I think that changing the zoning on Haggerty from 12 Mile north to 14 Mile and calling it the Haggerty Corridor has been a tremendous addition. At one time, Novi on Grand River, as the main road, had the most industrial property in the county, but was never fully developed," Aruffo said.

Aruffo has had a hand in securing bond issues for many town roads, for the school district, the library, and one for city hall. "We've enjoyed living in Novi," Aruffo said. "We've enjoyed seeing the development of the city as a wonderful place for quality homes as well as quality business."

Aruffo watches the Town Center and Main Street closely and hopes somebody will figure out how to get a municipal presence there.

"The library, the secretary of state should be there and we should have post services in that area," he said. "They've never given it any thought, but you don't have a downtown main

Ernest Aruffo

Age: 84
Occupation: Retired from owning Aruffo's Custom Floor Covering Company in Detroit. Moved to Northville in the mid 1970s.

Family: His wife is Eva Dawn and he has two daughters - Sylvia Dawn, and Patricia Anne.

Hobbies: Gardening and lots of volunteer work for the city of Novi.

Advice: "I always say, I'd hate to be in retail today," Aruffo said. "It's a real burden to be a retail merchant today because of the expense of government regulations, taxes, labor organizations and health insurance. All these things that didn't used to be a burden on a merchant are now because they're very expensive."

Awards: Aruffo has sales plaques all over his house from Sears, where he worked for a while after retirement. He was even given his own parking spot for a while.

School: Attended Central High School in Detroit and



Schoolcraft College to learn Italian.

"I couldn't get my father to teach me because when he came to America with his dad, he said they would not speak Italian, only English," he said.

He also went to University of Detroit's law school, but never received an undergraduate degree.

Job: worked at Aruffo's Custom Floor Covering Company in Detroit; 45

Interests: Aruffo is active in the Metropolitan United Methodist Church and he gives church tours.

Grew up: in Detroit

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street or a town center without them. Now it's merely commercial, which is done well. The groups moving in are good and the restaurants are doing well."

American history."

Holtzman said the documentary could make clearer what happened in New York.

Casey Sanders-James, 27, of Northville Township, said she would like to see the film, but feels a little hesitant.

"It was such a hard day for everyone," James said. "Seeing those crashes again and again was really emotional. So many people gave up their lives to help others, and that's what's important. We need to hear these stories."

"Answering The Call" tells some of these stories. Brunella Lisi, CEO of Illuminare, thinks Americans will support the tribute documentary.

"Our mission," Lisi said, "is quite simple - giving back to our heroes and paying tribute to their work, support, dedication and devotion."

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Catholic Central finds other options for its fans

continued from front page

it was fine. I'm sure if you were the last person on the bus going back to Meijer you probably don't think it worked out.

"The only negative part of it all was that it did take some time to leave after the conclusion of the game."

With no plans that Santello was aware of to expand parking on the school premises, the current plans will remain in place

for injuries suffered in the accident before his arrest.

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for future home games.

The next home contest is Saturday when the Shamrocks take on London Catholic Central at 7 p.m.

"It was a great idea and they did a great job shutting people back and forth," said Atkins. "The Novi police department was also on hand last Friday to help direct traffic and is contracted by the high school to be at every home game this season."

"Catholic Central has contracted us to have officers out there," said David Molloy, acting Novi police chief. "They pay to have to police officers out there, so they are not taken off of the streets. They are off-duty officers who are paid on an overtime basis. They are strictly out there

with yet another tragedy last week when a fire destroyed his Novi jewelry store just after 4 a.m. Aug. 24. The cause of the fire has been determined to be accidental, caused by an electrical defect in the store.

Gary Weinstein, the husband and father of these killed, was hit

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those rights to do that.

"It's typical of what we do for Twelve Oaks during the holiday season or at the old Expo Center during large events like the gem and jewelry show."

And if parking gets too hectic even with the school, Meijer and Target lots available, Santello said there's another option.

"We had originally made arrangements with Providence Hospital to use their parking facilities," he said. "We probably still have that arrangement, so you might say Providence Hospital is our third option."

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

There may be no smoking gun, but Judge Brian MacKenzie had no qualms last Wednesday about sending murder suspect Kevin Mykaloitis to trial.

After reviewing court transcripts taken from his own 52-1 District Court courtroom in Novi July 21-22, MacKenzie said Mykaloitis knew absolutely nothing about the business except that it concept was to buy homes, rehabilitate them and sell them for a profit. No homes had been purchased by the business, however.

The judge said that corroborative evidence existed that Mykaloitis and Sanders met at Denny's Restaurant on Novi Road on the night Sanders is believed to have been murdered.

He added that no one saw the murder victim alive after the alleged meeting between the two.

Although Sgt. Victor Lauria was unable to obtain a confession from Mykaloitis in the crime, MacKenzie noted Mykaloitis' negative comment to police about the investigation.

"Why would he see it as a negative if an investigation was going on after his business partner's murder?" MacKenzie asked.

The judge noted that there was a complete lack of physical evidence in the crime. "This wouldn't be a good show for Crime Scene Investigation," he said.

"I've got lots of doubt about this case, but there's some evidence. I think the prosecution has it right when you look at the testimony that the defendant made. He put himself at the scene of the crime," MacKenzie said.

Prosecutor Paul Walton said his office felt the circumstantial evidence was strong enough for the case to be bound over to circuit court.

"We've gained convictions on circumstantial evidence all the time in cases," Walton said.

MacKenzie said Mykaloitis and Sanders met in the purchase of a life

insurance policy on each of them," he added.

Mykaloitis and Sanders purchased a \$600,000 life insurance policy on an allegedly bogus business of theirs, naming each other as the beneficiary.

One of the intriguing parts of the case, in MacKenzie's opinion, is that there was no money, no mortgage, no assets to the business by the defendant's own testimony.

"That doesn't mean that anything happened, but it's unusual," he said. "Why is there a need for insurance at this level if there's no loss?"

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Dance Lessons Promote Positive Results — and they're Fun!

Whether your interest is in classical ballet, the rhythms of hip hop, dance offers many benefits beyond the "sheer joy of movement to music," according to Lisa Shapiro, Shapiro is the director of Center Stage Dance Company, a dance studio in Northville offering classes in ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, lyrical and pointe for ages three through adult.

"Participation in a quality dance program helps build self-esteem through opportunities to perform both within the classroom and for others," continues Shapiro. "In addition, dance is great exercise, it promotes physical development including strength, stamina, flexibility and poise."

Shapiro explains that studies have shown that dance promotes mental development as well. When students learn choreographed dances they practice patterning and develop memorization skills that can lead to improved academic aptitude. And dancing with a group helps promote both teamwork and leadership skills.

Sharing a Passion for Dance

Center Stage Dance Company begins its 18th year. Dancing since she was five years old, Shapiro taught high school dance before investing in a studio in Walled Lake in 1988. She moved the studio to Cady Street in Northville in 1992, and into a larger facility on Seven Mile Road in 2002 with four spacious dance rooms all with floating wood floors for safety and comfort. The student changing room/lounge is a great place for eating, studying, and socializing between classes. The facility also includes an apparel shop where students can purchase tights, leotards, shoes, T-shirts and other dance-related items.

Jackie Drouillard serves as office manager and Darcy Mikels as assistant office manager at Center Stage. They are available in the

front office throughout the day and during class times to provide assistance and to answer any questions dancers or parents may have. Parents and students may also email the studio at csdc5678@sbcglobal.net, with questions or concerns.

The growth of the studio has allowed Shapiro and her faculty and staff to share their passion for dance with so many young people. "Our mission statement reflects our philosophy: We are a non-competitive studio dedicated to teaching the art of dance for the purpose of physical, emotional and mental development, and for the sheer joy of movement to music," explains Shapiro.

The senior faculty includes dancers that have "grown up" at Center Stage Dance, beginning as young students themselves. It is a tribute to the quality of the programs offered at Center Stage that so many former students have stayed on to teach. Junior faculty and classroom apprentices are high school students who are also enrolled at the studio.

Shapiro and her staff work hard to stay well educated in the latest dance techniques. They travel to New York and across the country regularly to attend classes and training workshops.

Building Self-Esteem & Community Outreach

"We offer many opportunities to share our joy of dance," said Shapiro. "We provide as many performance opportunities for students as possible because it helps them to build confidence and self-esteem." In addition to the annual recitals each June, Center Stage Dance also conducts holiday and spring tours with performances at nursing homes, senior residential centers and children's facilities, such as the Hawthorn Center for Children, and St. Vincent / Sara Fisher Home for children. "We believe in encouraging our students to get involved in the community-at-large and to use their



Top: Summer Dance Camp fun at Center Stage Dance; Bottom left: June Recitals are just one opportunity for Center Stage Dance students to perform for family and friends; Bottom right: Ballet class at Center Stage helps build strength and flexibility.

talents to help enrich the lives of others," Shapiro said. The students also perform at many special events in Northville and surrounding communities.

A favorite performance is the fairy tale ballet with full costumes and staging, which is produced each spring. This year's presentation was "The Little Mermaid." "The Wizard of Oz" will be performed in 2006.

Program Choices — Something for Everyone

Center Stage offers a variety of classes including ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop, lyrical and pointe. Classes are available at every level from beginner through advanced for ages six through adult. A

preschool/kinderdance program combining ballet and tap is offered for beginning girls and boys from age three to six. The primary dance season begins in September and runs through June, culminating with six annual recitals. Enrollment for those programs is accepted through January.

As a community partner with the Northville Parks and Recreation Department, dance classes for adults and children are offered at Center Stage for those who prefer a shorter commitment. These 8-to-12 week sessions are a great opportunity to try out the program or learn a new technique.

A variety of dance programs and camps are also offered during the summer.

A traditional summer program for ages three and older meets once a week for eight weeks.

Dance camps at Center Stage for ages 6 and older offer five-day sessions featuring daily instruction in ballet, jazz, tap, hip hop and lyrical techniques with pre-pointe and pointe for advanced students. Campers are assessed on the first day of each session for assignment to appropriate performance groups. Activities include creating scenery and costumes, viewing syllabus-related videos, participating in technique-oriented games and more. Each Friday evening a showcase is presented for families and friends.

Fantasy camps for boys

and girls ages 4-8 feature creative themes that help teach rhythm and coordination along with the fun. This year's 3-day sessions in July and August included "Princesses & Pirates" and "Cowboys & Cowgirls."

Registration for programs and camps is available at Center Stage or through the Northville Parks & Recreation.

For more information on current class schedules, course information, staff bios, newsletters and more, please visit the Center Stage Dance Company website at dancingcenterstage.com or stop in or call the office at 248-380-1666.

5 Good Reasons to Take Dance Lessons

1. Makes you feel good!
2. Builds self esteem, and promotes physical, mental and emotional development
3. Enhances academic aptitude through the use of patterning and memorization
4. Improves flexibility, strength and stamina; it's great training for athletes
5. Develops teamwork skills

5 Great Reasons to Take Dance at Center Stage Dance

1. Friendly, relaxed, atmosphere with emphasis on fun!
2. Multiple classes for all ages at all skill levels, beginner through advanced, to fit your schedule
3. Small class sizes taught by qualified, caring, faculty & staff
4. Floating wood floors in 4 dance rooms for comfort and safety
5. Regular opportunities to perform throughout the community and at annual recitals

\$1 billion tax cut?

House GOP announces vote on plan to get state working

House Speaker Craig DeRoche (R-Now) and House Republicans announced a \$1 billion tax cut plan designed to jump-start Michigan's ailing economy, support state manufacturers and get Michigan working again.

"Michigan's unemployment rate again tops the nation and we need a bold plan to climb out of the economic cellar," said DeRoche. "The House plan is a \$1 billion tax cut for businesses across Michigan and it reflects almost two months of talks between the Granholm Administration, Senate Republicans and House Democrats."

"The fact remains, however, Michigan has waited long enough for action," DeRoche added. "The House will vote next week on this plan to get Michigan working again and it is my hope that vote will be bipartisan."

The House Republican tax plan scheduled for a vote yesterday afternoon will:

- Provide a personal property tax (PPT) credit of 20 percent for

manufacturers on existing equipment and up to a 50-percent credit for new equipment they buy;

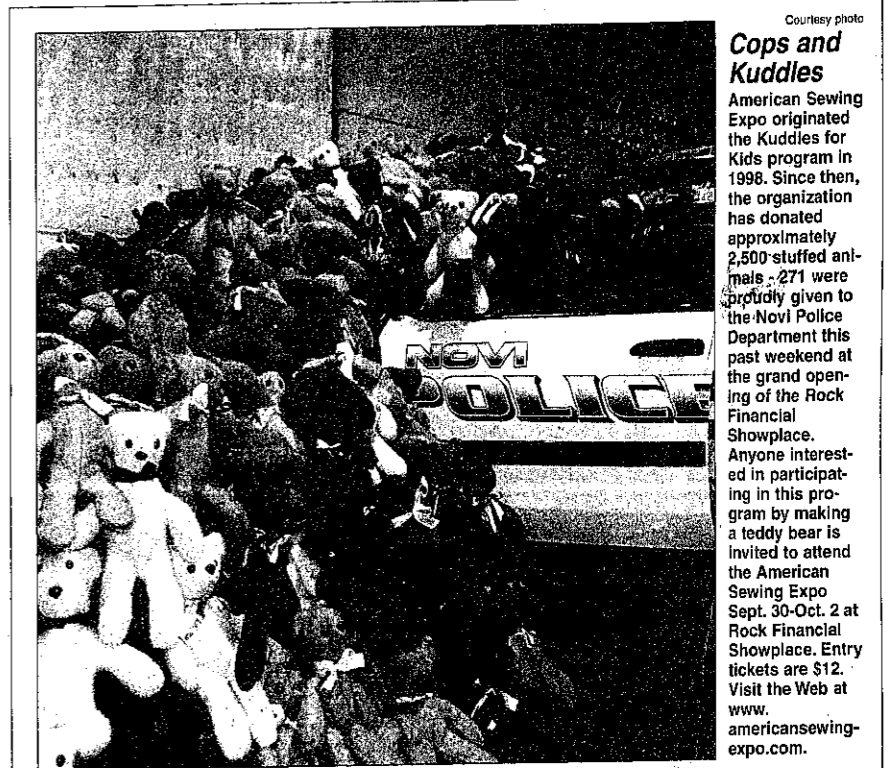
- Eliminate the tax on health care;
- Cut taxes for more than 33,000 small businesses;
- Increase the number of businesses eligible for small business tax relief;
- Reduce tax burden on payroll and equipment;
- Cut the SBT rate for every business in Michigan from 1.9 to 1.7 percent; and
- Apply triggers for additional cuts in the SBT and PPT as state revenues increase.

As announced in June, when the House Republican caucus unveiled its "Get Michigan Working" plan, \$100 million in state tax loopholes will be eliminated to help provide meaningful tax relief for all businesses.

Interest earned by securitizing a portion of the state's tobacco settlement and updates to Michigan's liquor license process will also be applied toward this tax cut plan.

Overall, the House Republican plan will result in \$1 billion in real tax relief for Michigan businesses over the next five years.

Currently, Michigan's unemployment rate is highest in the nation at 7 percent, 2 full percentage points above the national rate.



Courtesy photo
Cops and Kuddles
American Sewing Expo originated the Kuddles for Kids program in 1998. Since then, the organization has donated approximately 2,500 stuffed animals - 271 were promptly given to the Novi Police Department this past weekend at the grand opening of the Rock Financial Showplace. Anyone interested in participating in this program by making a teddy bear is invited to attend the American Sewing Expo Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at Rock Financial Showplace. Entry tickets are \$12. Visit the Web at www.americansewing-expo.com.

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COMMUNITY

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Proud to be Americans

Couple receives citizenship after eight long years

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Vic and Dara Voynov are proud to be Americans.

After eight years, the couple from Bulgaria was finally sworn in Oct. 2004, as American citizens at the International Institute in downtown Detroit.

Now, the couple works side by side at Fox Run in Novi and are proud to have the freedom to whatever they want.

"America is not like Bulgaria," Dara said. "Here, I can think what I want and express it. Freedom for speaking, thinking, working and everything."

Dara, 54, works in housekeeping and Vic, 53, works in grounds and maintenance at Fox Run. However, they both held much different positions in their home country.

Vic worked as a lecturer in physical education, and Dara worked as an inspector of income taxes in Bulgaria.

Although unable to work the same positions in America, the couple is happy where they are at.

"We love working here because of our parents," Vic said. "I lost my parents in 1980. Here, I see a lot of people like my parents, and we like helping the older people. It's very good for us."

The couple's main goal for living in the U.S. is to learn better English.

With Fox Run's tuition reimbursement program, the couple was able to take a course at School Craft College. Although the Voynovs felt the program didn't help them to accomplish their goals, they have set out to find other programs for English as a second language.

Vic said he might look into teaching again if his English improves.

"We also want our daughter and family to come to the U.S.," Dara said.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Dara, left, and Vic Voynov have begun a new life in Michigan, working at Novi's Fox Run Village, after spending most of their lives in Bulgaria.

Dara said, "People don't believe us when we talk about America. It's hard for a mother to be separated from her daughter."

In the meantime, Vic and Dara, who married in 1972, are enjoying their freedom and are making new friends every day.

"We have had a lot of people help us," Dara said. "We have a lot of American friends. We help each other out. And that is more than we did in Bulgaria."

Kathy Shaver, public relations manager for Fox Run, is very excited to have the couple at Fox Run.

"The residents think Vic and Dara are just the coolest people," she said. "It's really great that they love working with our residents, and we love having them here with us."

Dara said she is happy to be in America because she can do things she couldn't do in Bulgaria.

"It's easy to leave America," Dara said. "Because you can leave and always come back."

The Voynovs plan to travel now that they are citizens, and they plan to apply for a visa next year for their daughter and grandson to come visit.

"There is nothing like America," Dara said. "And we couldn't be happier to be here."

Tracy Mishler can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or via e-mail at tmishler@gannett.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Markham drops out of race

Former Novi Planning Commission Chair Owen Markham announced Monday that he has decided to end his bid for a city council seat in November.

Citing personal reasons, Markham mailed back campaign contributions to supporters on Monday.

With Markham dropping out of the race, six candidates instead of seven will vie for the three open council seats.

Those still running for city council include current Council Member Kim Capello, whose term expires this year, Justin Fisher, Terry Mangelis, Andrew Muteh, Lowell Spengler, and David Stauch.

City council members serve four-year terms. Candidates for mayor are Mayor Pro Tem and attorney David Landy and owner of Innovative Mortgage in Novi, Keith Kahn.

The general election is Nov. 8, on Saturday with occasional week day games. Pay will be based on level of certification. For more information call Wendy at the Novi Parks Department at (248) 347-0400.

For information concerning certification classes, go to the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, MSYSA, referee.net Web site.

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City council members serve four-year terms. Candidates for mayor are Mayor Pro Tem and attorney David Landy and owner of Innovative Mortgage in Novi, Keith Kahn.

The general election is Nov. 8, on Saturday with occasional week day games. Pay will be based on level of certification. For more information call Wendy at the Novi Parks Department at (248) 347-0400.

For information concerning certification classes, go to the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, MSYSA, referee.net Web site.

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Solid as a 'Rock'

New Showplace opens its doors to VIPs, public

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Blair Bowman's dream — the Rock Financial Showplace — has finally become a reality, with its doors open to the public for the first time last weekend.

Hosted by Signature Sponsor Standard Federal Bank, which financed the development of the center, the two-day event brought thousands of people to Novi.

On hand at the ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 26 were Bowman, owner of the Showplace, State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi), Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI), Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Mayor Lou Cordas, and David Hall, senior vice president of Rock Financial, and other special guests.

"Until you see it, you really can't get the feel for what it's really about," Hall said. "Obviously, it's very impressive."

"We're very excited and happy to be a part of it. This is our 20th year this year in business. It's going to be an appropriate 20th anniversary present for us."

The Diamond Center Ballroom, which can be divided into six separate rooms, can seat up to 1,800 people. David McKnight from Emerald City Design Inc. designed the decorations for the ballroom.

Friday night's gala dinner in the ballroom drew about 1,000 people, Bowman said, and raised \$75,000 for the new Providence Park Hospital to open in 2008 in Novi. Bowman presented the check to the hospital during the evening's festivities.

Bob Sellers, Pentac GMC Truck & Trailer dealership in Farmington Hills provided complimentary valet parking Friday night.

Saturday's events, which were free and open to the public, attracted 7,500-10,000 people, according to Bowman. After a concert, the weekend's grand finale was an 18-minute fireworks show about 10 p.m.

During a tour of the banquet center after Friday's ribbon-cutting ceremony, Bowman noted that the facility can have five or six 150 to 200-person weddings going on at about the same time.

"We would stagger them a little bit, but we can actually handle ceremonies on site," he said.

The facility offers intimate or large rehearsal dinners and receptions.

"The whole package can be done here at this facility. When we get the hotel, that will bring the one-stop shopping concept full circle," Bowman said.

Rock Financial has its own lounge, where the firm's clients can relax, watch TV or have a cocktail. Event planners DGM & Associates have rented space in the far west side of the Showplace.

"They're going to be working with us on booking events they handle. They have about 67 events a year that they do, and they do a ton of outside events." The firm plans

to open a new facility in the near future.

"Obviously," for having our first major event on the day that we got

the occupancy permit, and our kitchen not being done, and yet we were still able to deal with 2,500 people for the open house and 1,000 people for dinner, I think it was fantastic," Bowman said.

A total of 5,003 free hot dogs lunches were provided to the public on Saturday, and the ice cream machine had to be refilled seven or eight times.

Free face painting, temporary tattoos, hair coloring, Detroit Pistons interactive events and free toolbox kits and smocks from Home Depot were some of the highlights of Saturday's festivities.

"I had one comment from a mom that said it best," Bowman said. The woman sought Bowman out, shook his hand and thanked him.

"She said so many times you hear the type of a free event, and you get there, and there's either nothing to do or there's staff that really costs you to do," Bowman said. "This was the first time that she'd gone to

such an event where all of it was truly free, fun and there was a list to do."

"This has been in concept and dream form for so many years. To finally be standing there and welcoming people to the ballroom I've been talking about was really an incredible feeling."

Blair Bowman
Owner, Rock Financial Showplace

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@gannett.com.

For more information about upcoming events, check out the facility's new Web site at www.rockfinancialshowplace.com.

BUSINESS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax: (248) 349-9832



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

After Friday's ribbon-cutting ceremony at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace, as a worker on a ladder makes a few last minute adjustments, a crowd waits for a luncheon to get underway.

all types of corporate events.

The Showplace has several corporate meeting rooms that can host 20 to about 1,800 in the Diamond Center Ballroom.

The facility also has ample parking with more than 400 paved parking spaces. A permanent box office is also on site.

Separate entrances exist for the exposition center and the banquet area. Flat-screen computers give guests a rundown of events.

"My Favorite! Bead Show," will be the first event in the new facility tomorrow through Sunday. Show hours are noon to 6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The Bead Show is the next event, slated from noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 11.

Bowman said his administrative offices will move in anywhere from a month to the first of the year. The Showplace staff will be fully operational, however, within the next 10 days.

He said he was pleased with the outcome of the grand opening.

"Obviously," for having our first major event on the day that we got

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kids musician rocks

Cool kids music group Ralph's World will perform at the Novi Borders Tuesday, Sept. 20. Ralph's World has been hailed by the New York Times as the burgeoning genre of cool kids music.

In August, the group sold out the 8,000-seat Ravinia Theater in Chicago, which is a first for a kids musician. Ralph's World will be performing shows in the area, including Novi, Ekeca, Auburn Hills and Birmingham.

For information and show times in Novi, call (248) 347-0780.

Dirty blinds get clean

Jim and Michelle Walker of Novi announced the grand opening of dirtyblinds.com of Michigan in early August. Dirtyblinds.com offers on-site commercial and residential ultrasonic blind cleaning and repairs by certified and insured blind specialists.

Customers can receive on-site demonstrations and estimates on their blinds, and after-hour cleaning services are available. Dirtyblinds cleans corals, wands and ladders, and lubricates the

headrails for all blinds. For more information, call (248) 912-0906 or visit www.dirtyblinds.com.

Fashion boutique expanding

Marshall Field's plans to expand and remodel the store at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi, along with many revisions in stores across the country. Marshall Field's is introducing hundreds of new brands and presenting merchandise in bold and compelling ways at its Marshall Field's State Street store in Chicago and throughout the company. Marshall Field's State Street store is the second largest department store in the world and the company's designated marketplace for a wide array of new and exciting concepts.

Training available from CPX

CPX in Brighton is offering open training sessions every Monday at 10 a.m. at the CPX/CHOR office on Grand River. Training content will be determined by the attendees and classes are available for CPX members, CPX company administrators and CCMNet members.

CPX is a statewide database that uses marketing and research for commercial properties. CPX has been in operation for almost 3 years and is continuing to grow.

CBOR is the Commercial Board of Realtors for the entire state of Michigan. The company has approximately 700 members, including large companies such as Signature Associates, Colliers, Friedman, Insite, Grubb and CB Richard Ellis. CBOR provides commercial brokers with many benefits. For more information on the Monday training sessions and to ensure available seating, call (810) 229-9320 or visit e-mail admin@cpix.net.

New CEO for non-profit organization

Detroit Renaissance announced that Doug Rothwell would become president and CEO of the non-profit, civic organization. Rothwell, currently executive director of Worldwide Real Estate for General Motors Corporation, will replace Paul Hillebrands who had served as Detroit Renaissance president since 1997, and recently left the organization to become Senior Vice President of Corporate

Affairs of DTE Energy.

Rothwell has been with General Motors since January 2003 where he oversees 350 million square feet of real estate in more than 30 countries. Detroit Renaissance is a non-profit civic organization composed of 50 business leaders in Southeast Michigan. The organization focuses its efforts on economic and physical development and public policy issues as they pertain to the revitalization of Detroit.

The awards are ready

Automation Alley announced the finalists for its Fifth Annual Awards Gala, taking place Sept. 23 at the Ford Conference and Event Center in Dearborn. Finalists represent the top technology leaders and organizations that have made significant contributions to technology advancements throughout Southeast Michigan. Other categories for the awards gala include emerging leader, emerging technology company of the year, Automation Alley member of the year, educational program of the year and non-profit of the year.

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Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? Is your business heading in an exciting new direction, celebrating an anniversary or moving? If so, we want to know. Send your business briefs to:

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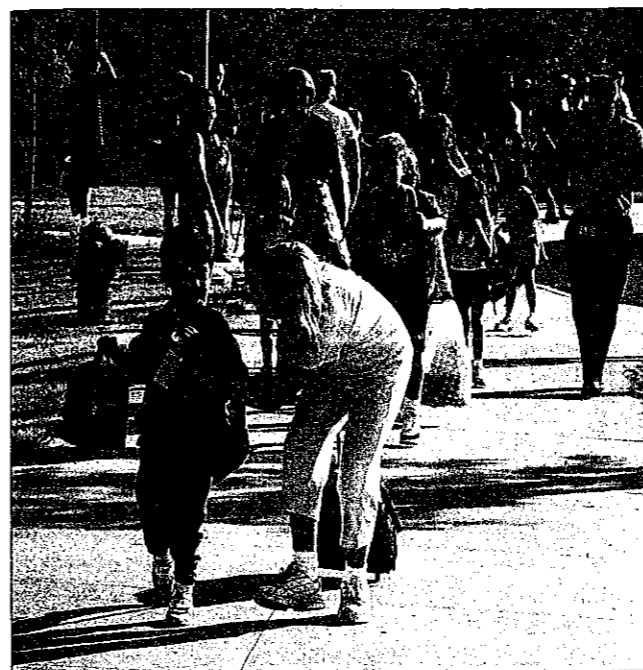
If possible, include a photograph with your submission. Briefs can come in the form of press releases or announcements, and the Novi News reserves the right to edit for length and content.

For more information, call (248) 349-1800, ext. 113.

Compiled by Tracy Misdler

EDUCATION

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 ccstone@gannett.com



Courtesy photo

Guess who's back?

A flock of students and parents return to Deerfield Elementary on the first day of school, Aug. 29.

Is Novi High failing?

Once again, school does not make adequate yearly progress

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Though seven of eight schools in the Novi Community School District made adequate yearly progress this year, one has not, and that's one too many for Novi High School. Principal John Lawrence said the school did not make adequate yearly progress, but for two separate reasons.

Last year it was because not enough students took the MEAP test. This year, however, it was because of something else. "AYP is based on continuous progress for all students and is analyzed in several different categories," Lawrence said. "This time, our special education students at the high school did not score as high as the other stu-

The Michigan Department of Education conducts an Adequate Yearly Progress evaluation of all public elementary, middle schools, and high schools in Michigan.

AYP tests schools and school districts in the areas of academic achievement, participation in state assessment, graduation rate for high schools, and student attendance for elementary and middle schools.

Here is how the Novi Community School District scored:

School	Grade	AYP
Deerfield Elementary School	A	Yes
Novi Middle School	A	Yes
Novi Woods Elementary School	A	Yes
Orchard Hills Elementary School	A	Yes
Parkview Elementary School	A	Yes
Village Oaks Elementary School	A	Yes
Novi Meadows Elementary School	No Grades	Yes
Novi High School	B	No

For the second straight year, Novi High did not make adequate yearly progress, but for two separate reasons.

Last year it was because not enough students took the MEAP test. This year, however, it was because of something else. "AYP is based on continuous progress for all students and is analyzed in several different categories," Lawrence said. "This time, our special education students at the high school did not score as high as the other stu-

dents, so the high school did not make the continuous progress required."

Though he could not comment further until the board of education has a chance to discuss the matter publicly, Lawrence indicated that the high school does have many factors that determine its success, and to label it a failing school would be unfair at this point.

The board is expected to discuss the new AYP grades during its next scheduled meeting, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 8. The meeting will be held at the Educational Services Building, located at 25345 Taft Road, in Novi.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1750, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@gannett.com.

ON CAMPUS

Matthew Lewis, of Novi, was named to the dean's list for June 2005 session at the University of Northwestern Ohio.

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Being a good citizen

Novi doctor replaces picnic table at Woods

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

When Dr. Warren Valleraud saw a report that a picnic table had been stolen from Novi Woods Elementary recently, he decided to do something about it.

"At some point early in the summer, someone stole it," he said, "which seemed like a cheap and despicable thing to do."
Pam Quittiquit, Novi Woods principal, is very grateful for the gift. She explained that the original table was used on nice days so the staff could eat their lunches outside. But, one day, some teachers went out to use it and it was gone.

"We did some checking around to make sure somebody hadn't borrowed it or something before we jumped to conclusions," Quittiquit said. "When we were not able to locate it, we filed a police report."

Valleraud said that report in the newspaper, called the school at the end of the year and said he would like to purchase a new picnic table for the staff.



Courtesy photo

Energetic teacher

Novi High School teacher Michelle Evans recently toured Detroit Edison's Monroe Power Plant with plant supervisor Clyde Smith as part of the 14th annual Educators' Energy Workshop sponsored by the DTE Energy Foundation. The workshop was designed to help middle school and high school science teachers develop their own energy education programs and integrate new materials into existing curricula.

What you should know about backpack safety

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

John Lawrence can walk into any given classroom during the school year and see that at least 50 percent of students inside are carrying backpacks.

This is nothing new. Students have been carrying backpacks from class to class for years. But why? They have lockers, they can keep their belongings in. And what are these heavy bags doing to students' backs?

"I've always been concerned about students who are carrying these huge backpacks that weigh 25 percent of what they weigh," said Lawrence, principal at the high school. "Of course, textbooks are heavy, and usually when I ask them why they choose to carry their backpacks, they say it's more convenient."

Lawrence explained that by carrying the bags, students don't have to go back and forth to their lockers as often during the day.

"We have not had, contrary to what some people may believe, students say that they don't have time to get from one point to the other, especially now, since we have much wider hallways and because we're much more spread out with the larger building," Lawrence said. "We don't have the hallway congestion that we used to have."

The phenomenon of backpack carrying also seems to decrease in the upper grades. But Lawrence hopes that more kids will consider using their lockers.

Tips to help prevent needless pain caused by over-stuffed backpacks:

- Make sure the backpack weighs no more than 5 to 10 percent of a student's body weight. Beyond that, the backpack will cause a student to begin bending forward in an attempt to support the weight on his or her back, rather than on the shoulders by the straps.
- A backpack with individualized compartments will help position the contents most effectively.
- Use both shoulder straps, not just one. A backpack slung over one shoulder disproportionately shifts all of the weight to one side, and can cause not only neck and muscle spasms, but also low back pain.
- Padded shoulder straps are very important. Not only will they be more comfortable than non-padded straps, but they will also help prevent the straps from digging into shoulders.
- The shoulder straps should also be adjustable, so the backpack can be fitted to a student's body. Shoulder straps that are too loose can cause the backpack to dangle uncomfortably and cause misalignment and pain.
- If the backpack is still too heavy, talk to teachers. It might be possible for students to leave the heaviest books at school and bring home only lighter hand-out materials or work books.

"We have wonderful lockers here for students, and they're accessible," he said. "I think instead of taking the trip, they'd rather take the time they have in the hallway to maybe socialize with their friends, which is very important too. They should have socialization throughout the school day."

Lawrence said he's always been concerned with students hunched over and putting so

much weight on their backs. "I wonder what that is doing to their frames," he said.

Dr. Kenneth Stopa, of Main Street Chiropractic Center, P.C. in Northville, said that back pain due to heavy bags is a problem

that can be prevented. He explained that when a student has over 15 percent of his or her body weight in the bag, that student will start to lean forward to compensate for the weight difference.

"Leaning forward puts a lot of pressure on the spine," Stopa said. "If you have a spinal condition, you're going to irritate it. When you get an irritated spine, you get pain. And when you get pain, you get grouchy and you can't concentrate and you can't move."

Symptoms include localized pain in the neck, in the mid back and in the low back, pain down the arms, the legs, hands, feet and toes. Some also experience digestive problems due to irritated nerves in the intestines, including increased gas or bowel problems.

"What is recommended is no more than 15 percent of a person's body weight in a bag," Stopa said. "I would tell a student to go to the locker, but if they insist on wearing a bag, wear it correctly. Also, exercise on a regular basis to make sure the body is strong enough to hold weight on the spine."

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SCHOOL'S BACK

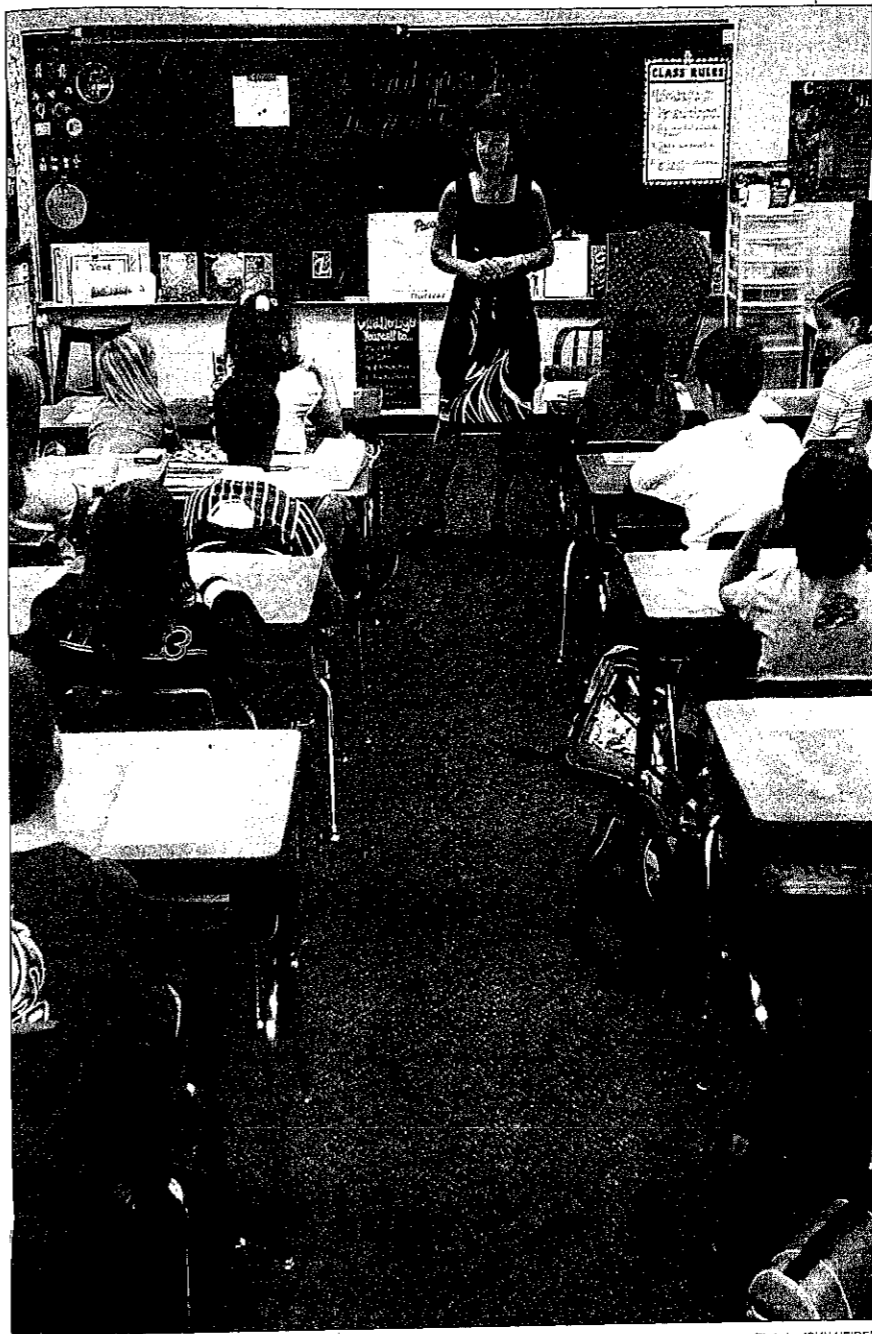


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

New Novi Village Oaks Elementary School principal Sue Burnham greets a fourth grade classroom last Monday on the district's first day of school.

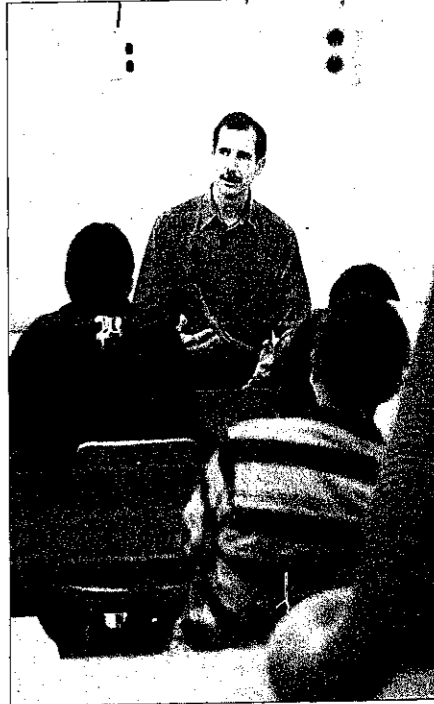


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi High School teacher Larry Seavo conducts a class in the school's brand new Power Technology Lab last Monday morning on the district's first day back.

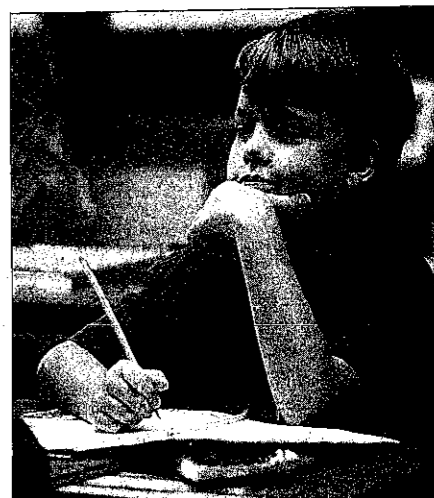


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Sam Potts, a fourth grader in Village Oak's teacher Lynn Cracraft's class, appears ready to hit the books on the first day back to school.

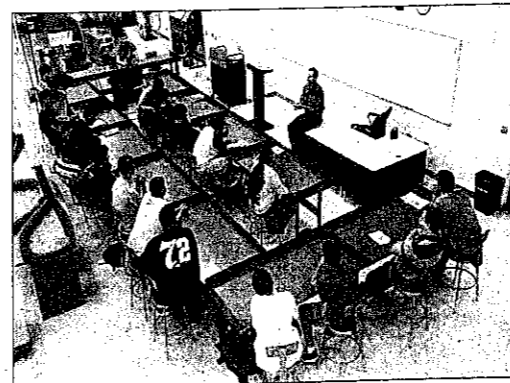


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi High School's Power Technology Lab sees its first students for the 2005/06 school year.

Students bid adieu to vacation, trade in the lazy days of summer for classrooms, books and teacher's dirty looks



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Village Oaks Elementary students are given a tour of the school during their first day back, last Monday.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

New Novi Village Oaks Elementary School principal Sue Burnham greets a fourth grade classroom last Monday on the district's first day of school.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD
High & Elm Streets, Northville
1 Lubeca Place
Church: 349-3140 School: 300-3145
Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service at 11:30 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
On Haggerty Rd. North of 8 Mile Rd.
Sunday School & Worship: 10 a.m.
Morning Celebration: 10:50 a.m.
(248) 348-1700
Dr. Ron Bishop, Pastor

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21356 Meadowbrook Rd. N. of 8 1/2 Mile
Morning Worship: 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Nursery: 10 a.m.
248-348-7757
Minister: Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt
Minister of Music: Patrick Kuntz

CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL (Anglican)
10 Mile between Meadowbrook & Haggerty
Phone: 248-348-1725
Sun: 7:45 & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School & Nursery: 10 am
Rev. Karen Harty, Pastor
www.churchoftheholycross.com

FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
48200 W. 10 Mile, Novi, 248-349-2345
102 mile west of Clarkston

Dr. Richard J. Harp, Pastor
Worship: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, Sunday

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
NOVI
48220 10 Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48271
Sunday: 9:30 am
Saturday: 5:00 pm
Rev. Fr. George M. Vapora, Pastor
Phone: 248-347-7728

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
2626 Meadowbrook Rd. Novi MI 48276
Mass: 8:30 am, 9:30 am, 10:30 am
8:45 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm
Holy Days: 8:30 am, 9:30 am, 10:30 am
Fr. Robert Stuebe, Pastor
Phone: 248-348-8847

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH
39831 Five Mile Rd. (S. of Haggerty)
Livonia, MI 48150
Phone: 734-420-0131
Sunday Services:
9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 am
Matins (Orthodox): 10:00 am, Liturgy: 10:00 am
Rev. Fr. George M. Vapora, Pastor
www.nativitygreek.com

WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
42115 Westwood, Novi, MI 48276
Worship Services: 8:00, 10:15, 11:30 am
Contemporary Service: 10:15 am
Sunday School & Nursery: 10:00 am
Senior Living Center: 10:00 am
Senior Breakfast: 10:00 am

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Friday Night Services: 8:00 p.m.
Saturday Services: 10:00 a.m.
HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES
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CALENDAR

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com www.novnews.com fax: (248) 349-9832

EVENTS

Novi Theaters Productions

LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0400
Senior Variety Series: Kicks on Route 66
 TIME/DATE: noon, Thursdays, Sept. 8, 15; Fridays, Sept. 9, 16; and 2 p.m., Sundays, Sept. 11, 18

Novi High School Band Fanfare

DATE: Saturday, Sept. 10
 TIME: 4 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi High School football field
 DETAILS: marching band competition. \$6 per adult, \$4 per senior and child, children 5 and under and Novi senior residents with pass are free.
 CONTACT: Sharon Hoving at (248) 349-4461

Northville Genealogical Society Meeting

DATE: Sunday, Sept. 11
 TIME: 2:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Northville Library, 212 W. Cady St., Northville
 DETAILS: Carolyn Griffin, author of "The Huguenots: Coming to America" will be the speaker. A computer genealogy class on resources will be held at 1:15 p.m. (prior to the regular meeting). There is no fee. Individual help on genealogy is offered by Society members at the Northville District Library, 1-3 p.m., Mondays and by appointment.
 CONTACT: Grace Wilfong at (248) 349-9079 or visit www.novnews.com/society

Emergency Food Assistance Distribution

DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 13
 TIME: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Senior Center at Meadowbrook Commons
 DETAILS: All people who are income eligible and not registered may do so at the site by bringing social security cards, household income and photo ID.
 CONTACT: O.H.S.A., Community and Family Services Department, Pontiac, (248) 209-2658 or (800) 482-9250.

Novi Concert Band

DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 20
 TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Middle School, 11 Mile and Wixom Road
 DETAILS: The Novi Chorales is a community chorus with members from Novi, Northville and the surrounding area. The group rehearses September through May with Christmas concerts in December, a spring concert in May and performances at other local events.
 CONTACT: Noel Brown, President (248) 348-0439 or Janet

Rehearsals

TIME/DATE: 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays, ongoing
 LOCATION: Novi High School, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: The next rehearsal is Sept. 13, open to all wind and percussion players.
 CONTACT: Dorian Kochany, (248) 348-5135

Farmhouse restoration town rummage event

DATE: Saturday, Sept. 17
 TIME: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 LOCATION: Walked Lake Event Field, 1499 E. West Maple in Walked Lake
 DETAILS: The Friends of the Foster Farmhouse are a group of volunteers that are committed to restoring and maintaining the Farmhouse as a local history museum. Antic, garage and basement items are needed. All proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Foster Farmhouse. Items can be dropped off on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 1-3 p.m. at the Foster Farmhouse located at Riley Park on Cannon Street in Walked Lake.
 CONTACT: (248) 624-5727, or visit www.walkedlake.com
 "Rebated Links."

WCSX Classic Rock Cruiser Show & Shine

DATE: Sunday, Sept. 18
 TIME: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
 LOCATION: Bob Sellers Pontiac, Twelve Oaks Mall
 DETAILS: All makes and models are welcome at this classic rock cruiser show and shine event. Tickets will be available for JJ & Lynne Stone Soap GTO Raffale tickets and fees.
 CONTACT: (248) 398-9470 or email, jwilliams@greatermetrolia.com or visit http://www.wcsx.com

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Mondays, Sept. 12 and 26; Oct. 10 and 24; Nov. 14 and 28; Dec. 5 and 19
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursdays, Sept. 8 and 22
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Educational Services building, 25345 Tull Road
 CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

Novi Chorales Auditions

DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 20
 TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Middle School, 11 Mile and Wixom Road
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 CONTACT: Noel Brown, President (248) 348-0439 or Janet

Borders Bookstore Events

LOCATION: 43075 Crescent Boulevard, Novi
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0780
Ralph's World Performance
 DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 20
 TIME: 10 a.m.-noon
 DETAILS: Ralph Covert of Ralph's World will be performing at a casual, free concert. Event is for the whole family.
Book Signing
 DATE: Thursday, Sept. 29
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 DETAILS: Children's author, Patrick Carman will be signing his book, Lord of Elyon #2: Beyond the Valley of Thorns

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesdays, Sept. 13, 27, Oct. 11, 25; Nov. 9, 23; Dec. 13 and 20
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 4945 Pontiac Trail
 CONTACT: (248) 634-4557

Builder's Pre-License Class

DATE: Monday/Wednesday, Sept. 26, 28, Oct. 3, 5
 TIME: 6-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: South Lyon High School, 1000 N. Lafayette Street
 DETAILS: Get the help you need to pass the Michigan State builder's license examination with a 16-hour comprehensive seminar offered by Walked Lake Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute. The course is for those who want to subcontract the construction of their own homes, real estate investors and developers and building trades people who want to work legally in Michigan. The cost of the seminar is \$199 plus \$20 for the course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, September 22 to South Lyon Recreation Department.
 Unlike one-day classes where you learn on your own, this seminar is comprehensive, teaching math as well as blueprint reading. Oakland Builders Institute teaches building courses in 38 school districts in Michigan. For a free brochure and current schedule, call toll-free (800) 940-2014 or (248) 651-2771.
 CONTACT: (248) 956-5000 to register Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Visit www.buildersinstitute.com

Build Your Own Home

DATE: Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 6, 8, 13 and 15
 TIME: 6-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: Department of Parks & Recreation, 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
 DETAILS: City of Wixom Parks & Recreation in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute will offer a 16-hour seminar: How To Build Your Own Home. Designed for those who want to construct their own home construction as well as those who want to work with a builder, the course details each stage of construction as well as your rights and responsibilities. The course covers home financing, the building process, builder's terms and contracts as well as building codes, insurance requirements and much more. Many hand-outs and guidance from an instructor who is also a builder. The seminar costs \$190 plus \$30 for two textbooks to teacher. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Friday, Sept. 2.
 CONTACT: Call (248) 624-2850 to register.

Builder's Pre-License Class

DATE: Monday/Wednesday, Sept. 19, 21, 26, 28
 TIME: 6-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: Walked Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walked Lake
 DETAILS: Get the help you need to pass the Michigan State builder's license examination with a 16-hour comprehensive seminar offered by Walked Lake Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute. The course is for those who want to subcontract the construction of their own homes, real estate investors and developers and building trades people who want to work legally in Michigan. The cost of the seminar is \$199 plus \$20 for the course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, September 22 to South Lyon Recreation Department.
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 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

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 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Educational Services building, 25345 Tull Road
 CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

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 CONTACT: Noel Brown, President (248) 348-0439 or Janet

Oakland County Business Workshops

LOCATION: Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
 CONTACT: (248) 858-0883

CLASSES

Business Referrals

DATE: every Wednesday
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 TIME: 7:45-9 a.m.
 DETAILS: Meeting of local professionals and business looking to increase word-of-mouth referrals. Various classifications open and eager to bring you qualified business leads.
 CONTACT: (734) 463-6460

Build Your Own Home

DATE: Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 6, 8, 13 and 15
 TIME: 6-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: Department of Parks & Recreation, 49015 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
 DETAILS: City of Wixom Parks & Recreation in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute will offer a 16-hour seminar: How To Build Your Own Home. Designed for those who want to construct their own home construction as well as those who want to work with a builder, the course details each stage of construction as well as your rights and responsibilities. The course covers home financing, the building process, builder's terms and contracts as well as building codes, insurance requirements and much more. Many hand-outs and guidance from an instructor who is also a builder. The seminar costs \$190 plus \$30 for two textbooks to teacher. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Friday, Sept. 2.
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 CONTACT: (248) 956-5000 to register Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Visit www.buildersinstitute.com

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 Arcan 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

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Friday
 TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
 LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road (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 (fees are for the entire evening).
 CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Providence Center for the Healing Arts - Artist in Residence

ONGOING: Thursdays
 TIME: 1-2:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Creative Arts

Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute

The course is for those who want to subcontract the construction of their own homes, real estate investors and developers and building trades people who want to work legally in Michigan. The cost of the seminar is \$199 plus \$20 for the course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, September 15 to Walked Lake Community Education.
 Unlike one-day classes where you learn on your own, this seminar is comprehensive, teaching math as well as blueprint reading. Oakland Builders Institute teaches building courses in 38 school districts in Michigan. For a free brochure and current schedule, call toll-free (800) 940-2014 or (248) 651-2771.
 CONTACT: (248) 956-5000 to register Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Visit www.buildersinstitute.com

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 Arcan Drive (activity room, main floor)
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 TIME: 6-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: Walked Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walked Lake
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 CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursdays, Sept. 8 and 22
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Educational Services building, 25345 Tull Road
 CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

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DATE: Monday/Wednesday, Sept. 19, 21, 26, 28
 TIME: 6-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: Walked Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walked Lake
 DETAILS: Get the help you need to pass the Michigan State builder's license examination with a 16-hour comprehensive seminar offered by Walked Lake Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute. The course is for those who want to subcontract the construction of their own homes, real estate investors and developers and building trades people who want to work legally in Michigan. The cost of the seminar is \$199 plus \$20 for the course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, September 22 to South Lyon Recreation Department.
 Unlike one-day classes where you learn on your own, this seminar is comprehensive, teaching math as well as blueprint reading. Oakland Builders Institute teaches building courses in 38 school districts in Michigan. For a free brochure and current schedule, call toll-free (800) 940-2014 or (248) 651-2771.
 CONTACT: (248) 956-5000 to register Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Visit www.buildersinstitute.com

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Mondays, Sept. 12 and 26; Oct. 10 and 24; Nov. 14 and 28; Dec. 5 and 19
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Thursdays, Sept. 8 and 22
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Educational Services building, 25345 Tull Road
 CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

Novi Chorales Auditions

DATE: Tuesday, Sept. 20
 TIME: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Middle School, 11 Mile and Wixom Road
 DETAILS: The Novi Chorales is a community chorus with members from Novi, Northville and the surrounding area. The group rehearses September through May with Christmas concerts in December, a spring concert in May and performances at other local events.
 CONTACT: Noel Brown, President (248) 348-0439 or Janet

Oakland County Business Workshops

LOCATION: Oakland County complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
 CONTACT: (248) 858-0883

Providence Center for the Healing Arts - Artist in Residence

ONGOING: Thursdays
 TIME: 1-2:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Creative Arts

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 Arcan 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

Line Dancing Classes

DATE: every Friday
 TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
 LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road (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 (fees are for the entire evening).
 CONTACT: (248) 348-9116

Providence Center for the Healing Arts - Artist in Residence

ONGOING: Thursdays
 TIME: 1-2:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Creative Arts

Builder's Pre-License Class

DATE: Monday/Wednesday, Sept. 19, 21, 26, 28
 TIME: 6-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: Walked Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac Trail, Walked Lake
 DETAILS: Get the help you need to pass the Michigan State builder's license examination with a 16-hour comprehensive seminar offered by Walked Lake Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute. The course is for those who want to subcontract the construction of their own homes, real estate investors and developers and building trades people who want to work legally in Michigan. The cost of the seminar is \$199 plus \$20 for the course textbook and sample questions. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Thursday, September 22 to South Lyon Recreation Department.
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OPINION

Novi News

Richard Ramhoff
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

Grace Perez Perry
GENERAL MANAGER

Richard Perleberg
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Cal Stone
EDITOR

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

WHERE WE STAND

Labor Day: Be smart this weekend

The Labor Day weekend is for many a final opportunity to enjoy summer's fleeting embrace. Let's make sure it doesn't end up in disaster. No matter what the extended weekend brings, be careful when driving.

High gas prices, approaching \$3 per gallon may put a crimp in your holiday travel plans, but they should have no impact on the value we put on safe driving practices.

Be careful this weekend. Be patient. Wear your seatbelt. Fasten children properly into child seats.

Why? According to the State of Michigan, last year there were 17 fatal crashes in Michigan during the Labor Day weekend, resulting in 20 deaths.

Add those fatalities to the 23 people who died following 21 Fourth of July accidents earlier this summer and the numbers sadly become real.

Only eight of the 19 occupants who died during the Fourth of July weekend were restrained, state records indicate, 52 percent of the accidents involved alcohol.

Safety's not enough of a motivator? Then know this: the Michigan State Police will have zero tolerance for seatbelt offenders this weekend, once again initiating its "Click It or Ticket" program.

Don't drink and drive. Drive safely. Be smart. Simple messages worth repeating to those you love — and to yourself. Enjoy the weekend.

Don't get bus-ted

Every Wednesday morning, my two boys ride the bus to school. This being the first week of school, yesterday was their first ride of the new year.

The three of us shot hoops in the driveway while waiting for the bus to come down the street. It did. And it blew right by us as I frantically waved my hands.

We all hopped in the car and drove over to the other side of the neighborhood where I pretty much blocked the bus. I got out and asked the driver what was going on. "Why didn't you stop?" I asked her.

"This is my only stop here now," she said. She was not the same driver we had last year. "Well, you're going to Parkview, right? Can my boys get on?"

"They've been riding this bus for four years!" I'm going to be late for work because they're not on your list!"

"Yes sir," as she drove off. Somebody was going to get my wingtips polished the hard way.

I called the Charlotte Public Schools bus garage, and the receptionist laughed when I told her that I had a letter from them with my boy's name on it. Now I'm beyond mad. All I could think of was Joe Pesci's line from "Goodfellas" — "Fanny like ha ha?"

Then I found out that my wife had registered the boys to be dropped off in the afternoon only and not to be picked up in the morning.

Apparently there's two lists. I saw in the office late and needed to vent, which I've just done with this column.

But I'll end it on an upbeat note: School has started. Children are scurrying around the streets waiting for buses or getting on or off them. Be careful, please. Slow down when you see those big vehicles, and pay attention to the light show below.

Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 or by e-mail at cstone@gannett.com.

School Bus Stops What Every Driver Must Know

School Buses with Overhead Red and Yellow Lights

- Yellow lights are flashing — prepare to stop.
- Red lights are flashing — stop no closer than 20 feet from the bus.
- Red lights turned off — proceed.

School Buses with Overhead Red Lights Only

- Red lights are flashing and bus is moving — prepare to stop.
- Red lights are flashing and bus is stopped — stop no closer than 20 feet from the bus.
- When red lights are turned off — proceed with caution.

All School Buses

Yellow hazard warning lights are flashing — proceed with caution.

SOURCE: AAA

LETTERS

Grand opening was Rock solid

It certainly has been a long journey in making the idea of a new exposition, convention and conference center a reality. The new Rock Financial Showplace is a beautiful result of that journey, and the grand opening was a great way to kick-off all of the exciting events that will be held there. Through the grand opening efforts we were able to successfully showcase the new building and all of the great new features it has to offer as well as raise \$75,000 for the campaign for the new Providence Park Hospital. Saturday's attendance well exceeded anyone's expectations with approximately 7,000 visitors coming through the Show of Shows.

I would like to personally thank all of the sponsors that participated in the event and the community involvement but one person and company that I have not had the opportunity to thank enough is Keith Wilson and Bob Sellers. Pontiac-GMC for the outstanding job they did in providing valet service for the Friday night charity dinner gala. Thank you, Keith, for your support for the grand opening as it was instrumental in making Friday's VIP event a smooth success.

I hope that everyone that had the opportunity to make it to the grand opening enjoyed the facility and all of the great activities that were taking place. If you did not get the opportunity to make it by, then be sure to check out our upcoming schedule of events on the website at www.rockfinancialshowplace.com.

We look forward to growing, serving and being a part of the community for a very long time and look forward to seeing you at future events.

Blair M. Bowman
Rock Financial Showplace Owner

Thanks from chief's family

The family of Douglas Shoemaker would like to thank the community for their many cards and letters during a time when we were attempting to cope with his sudden death. We loved reading your "Chief" stories.

Also, we want to thank Moe's on Ten, Steve and Rockys and the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club for providing an exceptional lunch for individuals who attended the services. These restaurants have always been so welcoming to our community. They were close, personal friends and we are honored that they wanted to pay this tribute to Doug.

Our thanks goes to Blair Bowman who provided a room at the Novi Expo Center for the luncheon. He also was a personal friend of Doug's and a friend to the community.

Thank you to Varsity-Lincoln Elementary for providing transportation for out-of-state family as well as for the funeral procession. Your kindness was greatly appreciated.

O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home led us through a difficult decision process with a compassionate professionalism. Thank you to John O'Brien and his staff for their caring support.

The city of Novi employees and the Novi Police Department were incredible. They were at our side in minutes. Their planning, implementation and presence at the services was impressive. Not only were we proud of Doug for leading such an elite force, we were proud of all of the exceptional men and women that stood there in attention, a wave of blue, to honor their chief.

Every chance he got, Doug talked about his pride in the department. He was proud of their integrity and dedication to their profession. He was proud of the level of education and training

Share your opinions: We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Generally, no more than one letter per month by the same author will be published. Letters must be received by noon Tuesday to be printed in the Thursday edition. Mail: Letters to the Editor, Cal Stone, Novi News, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167 E-mail: cstone@gannett.com Fax to: (248) 349-9832

Second City fills nightlife void in Novi

"It's the greatest day of all time." Such a statement had to be made for a wedding or the birth of a child, right?

Wrong. Instead, it was because the plumber came on time and fixed the sink and cars were driving slow in the slow lane and fast in the fast lane. Not to mention the mechanic fixed the car and didn't try to overcharge. Stop just because it was a woman he was dealing with.

"They did their job." The Second City cast sings the tune about how things didn't go above and beyond and people didn't do anything but what their job description entails, but it's still great. It's funny because it's true (oh how we wish everyone would just do their job for a day).

The little dirty song by the troupe wasn't the only funny performance during their show "I Pod We Trust." The entire show, with Tophier Owen, Margaret Exner and Jenny Hagen truly standing out. The skits are funny, the songs are well written and the improv leaves everyone with a smile on their face.

Many of the songs are memorable and those who catch a show will probably find themselves singing a line or two while scrubbing away in the shower (or wherever it is they like to sing). There are a few moments of forgettable scenes, but for the most part the crew at Second City bring about one heck of a good time.

With its move to Novi, Second City has returned to its roots. No more stadium seating, which many pundits frowned upon. Instead, the stage is surrounded with cabaret-style seating with room enough for about 200 people reminds some of when the theater originally opened in Detroit in the early 1990s.

The addition of Second City and Andiamo also fills a void that had been a glaring empty store-

Council candidate withdraws

It is with much regret that I must withdraw as a candidate for Novi City Council. Although I looked forward to the campaign and to possibly serving the community as a member of council, my personal circumstances have changed since May when I announced my candidacy. In fairness, I will leave the race so that voters elect council members who can fully devote their energies to the job. Although my name will still appear on the November ballot please don't cast a vote for me. I will be supporting the candidacies of former planning commissioners Lowell Sprague and Andrew Gagnier.

Loreta Shoemaker, Mark and Deana Shoemaker, Matt and Beth Shoemaker, Crissy, Sierra, Amanda, Elijah, Griffin, Erin and Riley Grandchildren

Former chief impressed

During my many years of duty which included American and Canadian military as well as township, village, city, county and state law enforcement I have participated in or witnessed a multiplicity of official funeral ceremonies but I do not recall one that equaled that of Novi Police Chief Douglas Shoemaker.

It was apparent the entire Novi Police Department worked as a team; the personnel of the chief's office, dispatch, reception, mechanics, police officers and command officers all contributed their part to a ceremony that all those present will always remember. What a wonderful tribute to Chief Shoemaker and what consolation to his family.

My heartfelt congratulations to the entire Novi Police Department and in particular to Deputy Chief Dave Malloy and Senior Lieutenant Tim McNamara, the coordinator of this well-planned and perfectly-executed tribute to Chief Shoemaker. These two command officers have demonstrated leadership, knowledge and police administrative ability. They have proven that they and their officers are more than capable of handling the future of the Novi Police Department as our city enters the forthcoming years of rapid growth and the resulting demand for first class police service.

Lee Begole
Director of Public Safety (Ret.), Fire and Police, Novi Township

Director of Public Safety (Ret.), Police and Fire, Village of Novi

Chief of Police (Ret.), City of Novi

Katie and Jennifer Kerbrat
Meadows Troop #3073

Americans support our troops everywhere

After 9/11, missed as we were by our leaders, many citizens of this great country sadly saw the war in Iraq begin. Many supported the effort. It was natural to assume that there was a plan. It was natural to believe our leaders when they told us that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. It was natural to hope that democracy as we know it would be enhanced by a country that had suffered so much under Saddam Hussein.

Now as the body count grows, as we learn there were no weapons of mass destruction, as we realize there are profits from this war being made by companies connected to people in Washington, we are beginning to question why our young people are dying in this far off land. On behalf of Gjejo's Salon and Day Spa, we would like to invite you to participate in our wonderful event. Your participation of this event will be vital to its success. Any attention you could provide will be a great help to those who have been affected by the Katrina.

For more information please contact Gjejo Vushaj at Gjejo's Salon and Day Spa at (248) 349-9003.

Gjejo's Team
Novi

Doreen Lawton
Novi

Band-Aid Drive Thanks

As a patient at Children's Hospital of Michigan, I have a lot of blood taken and really enjoy getting funny or silly Band-Aids, so I thought that I would do a service project with my girl scout troop to help collect "Happy Band-Aids" for my department.

I would like to thank the following people and groups for helping to collect Band-Aids for CHM: Novi Girl Scouts, especially troops #3073, #3075 and #3341; Novi Meadows students; The Novi Newcomers; my family; and Katalina Fannon and her family.

Thank you for helping me collect over 6027 Band-Aids for the hematology/oncology department. You have helped to make many kids smile!

Ken Markham
Novi

Hurricane Katrina help

In light of recent events, we at Gjejo's Salon and Day Spa feel now is an excellent time to start helping those who need it most. Hurricane Katrina has brought tragedy. Although, it is beyond our means to travel to the site, as a team, Gjejo's Salon and Day Spa would like to contribute "A Day at the Salon and Spa" to aid relief efforts of Hurricane Katrina.

The event will be held at Gjejo's Salon and Day Spa, located at 44125 W. 12 Mile Rd. in Novi, on Friday, Sept. 2, from 2-9 p.m. All proceeds from sales of products as well as salon and spa services will be donated to relief efforts of the Katrina through the American Red Cross.

On behalf of Gjejo's Salon and Day Spa, we would like to invite you to participate in our wonderful event. Your participation of this event will be vital to its success. Any attention you could provide will be a great help to those who have been affected by the Katrina.

For more information please contact Gjejo Vushaj at Gjejo's Salon and Day Spa at (248) 349-9003.

Gjejo's Team
Novi

Doreen Lawton
Novi

COMMENTARY

Cal Stone, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com

Face a Labor Day reality - unions just aren't what they used to be

Here's a good quote to begin the Labor Day weekend: "To protect the workers in their inalienable rights to a higher and better life ... the right to be full sharers in the abundance which is the result of their brains and brawn, and the civilization of which they are the founders and the mainstay ... The attainment of these is the glorious mission of the trade unions."

That's from a 1898 speech by Samuel Gompers, the first president of the American Federation of Labor. Today, this fine 19th century rhetoric sounds ... well ... like a fine 19th century relic.

Last week, at a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Auto Workers union, former UAW president Douglas Fraser said: "It's a real struggle. And it's more severe than it's ever been before. Everybody thinks the toughest things were ... the toughest times were their times. But I don't accept that."

"The toughest times are now," Strong words from a labor leader who joined the union the year after it was founded. As this is written, Northwest Airlines is flying resoundingly successfully, despite an ongoing strike by its mechanics union. The heavily unionized American automobile industry is in terrible disarray. Both General Motors and Ford have seen their corporate bonds downgraded to junk status.

Meanwhile, the companies and the UAW are trying to figure out how to cut health care costs before the companies go bust and an angry union membership tosses out its leaders.

Could it be that Southeastern Michigan, a major cradle of the American industrial labor movement, is now on the cutting edge of a wholesale transformation of labor-management relations? You be the judge.

And better be.

As long as companies control their markets — as the American auto makers did throughout most of the 20th century — they can pass along to their captive customers the cost increases they bargain with their unions. The price of the car could go up or the quality go down. Didn't matter much. As a great philosopher once said, if there's no alternative, there's no alternative.

But the Japanese car manufacturers shrewdly calculated that the American market was enormous and the domestic car companies were fat and vulnerable. They started shipping cars made in Japan to the West Coast in the 1970s, and they began gaining market share. Then they looked at the cost of shipping and figured it would be cheaper to make the cars in America.

They built most of their assembly plants in the south, historically hostile to unions. And despite the best efforts of the UAW, the foreign-owned "transplant" assembly plants remain non-union.

Year after year, foreign brands made in the U.S. have increased market share. But our domestic manufacturers find themselves hobbled by labor contracts negotiated over the years with the UAW.

They can't close excess plants; they can't cut labor costs; they can't cut health care costs. They no longer control their markets. And they are in big trouble.

Now, in the early 21st century, trade is largely free, markets are increasingly competitive and the world is becoming flat. And that means that market forces are working against labor union contracts that require closed markets and a monopoly on the supply of labor.

And because Detroit has historically been the citadel of labor union power in America, that crisis is the most profound and the most wrenching right here in our own backyard.

Writing in The Detroit News last week, Daniel Howes called Detroit, "the nation's repository for collective denial and the epicenter of industrial America under siege." A great line.

Speaking of denial — I wonder if there's anybody here who really believes the troubles of the domestic auto industry are going to be solved by a couple of good sales years? Speaking of being under siege, I wonder if pattern of union dominance that has crippled the old mainstream air carriers with high legacy costs?

This isn't union bashing. In the good old days, labor unions contributed mightily to our society. Once, they fought against oppressive managements which were then behind the times.

Unions helped raise wage levels that created a middle class that could afford to buy the cars they produced. By and large, they fought for equal status for women and minorities. By bargaining for health care coverage and retirement positions for their members, they contributed to the prosperity and security of our state.

I remember going to speeches by the legendary UAW leader, Walter Reuther, who used to say quite accurately that the union was the great force for the country's benefit in the 20th century.

But his century is gone. And given what's going on these days, I would be surprised if somewhere, sometime in the near future, somebody important is going to seriously propose that Michigan become a right-to-work state, meaning one where nobody can be required to join a union as a condition of taking or keeping any job.

Think about that.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at power@hcnnet.com.

What a weekend for the city of Novi

Friday was the grand opening charity event for the Rock Financial Showplace and the program was fantastic. Blair Bowman and his team obtained their Certificate of Occupancy at 3:02 PM Friday and the party began.

After the ribbon cutting ceremony Friday afternoon, tours were given of the facility and a luncheon was provided for those in attendance. During the lunch, it was interesting to watch the electricians install the exit signs above the main entry doors. Last minute details were falling into place throughout the building.

After Blair secured the debris from the relief cracks in the sidewalk, while dressed in his tuxedo, the beautiful main entrance was complete and clean per Blair's high standards.

Later that evening, the Show of Shows was followed by the first ever event in the Diamond Ballroom. The gala, which was attended by 900 of Blair's closest friends, was a scene right out of Hollywood. The evening was highlighted by a donation of \$75,000 to Providence Hospital. Blair presented the poster size check to Rob Casullo, President of Providence.

Rob noticed that the check was not signed so Blair took out his pen and inked the deal right there for all to see. A minor detail. Saturday was equally eventful as the public had the opportunity to experience the new building free of charge. There were many

things to see and do for the young and old. The evening was capped off with a great fireworks display.

Friday night, just a mile away, another milestone for our city occurred. It was the very first home football game for Novi Catholic Central High School. It took something like 67 years to happen and over 5,000 fans joined Father Elmer to witness the event.

Other than the score it was a perfect night. The warm air and the starlit sky seemed to welcome this venerable institution to its new home. And it was good. You know, I don't think I have ever seen Father Elmer smile so broadly, and long.

The Novi Wildcats also kicked off their 2005-2006 football season with a glorious victory over Chelsea at Eastern Michigan University on Saturday night. As I have been heard to say a time or two, "It's great to be a Wildcat!"

Sunday brought yet another extraordinary event to our city. Jim and Polly Dunn of Diamond Cuts Salon on Grand River held an event to celebrate the lives of Judith, Alexander and Sam Weinstein. As I have been heard to say a time or two, "It's great to be a Wildcat!"

sound of 224 Harley Davidsons leaving town with a police escort to raise money for these worthy organizations.

It was fantastic. As they rolled the power on, you could feel the thunder go right through you. This was the first time I had the opportunity to ride with such a large group. The line of Harleys was two-deep and over a mile long. You could see that everyone was happy to be here to contribute to the cause. Thousands of dollars were raised and I hope this turns into an annual event for our city.

After a 35-mile cruise the riders returned to the Diamond Cuts parking area where they were treated to a great lunch served by The Italian Epicure. Thanks to all who attended and a special thank you to the Novi Police, the Northville Township Police, and all of the other departments that cleared the way for this great ride.

Also, a note of appreciation to the Motor City Chapter and Motown Chapter of HOG (Harley Owners Group). These chapter organizations represent Motor City Harley Davidson in Farmington Hills and Bob's Motown Harley Davidson in Taylor. Their Road Captains ensured that the ride was orderly and safe for everyone involved.

It was a great weekend in our wonderful community. Stay tuned more to come!

Low Csordas is the mayor of the city of Novi. He can be reached at (248) 347-0460.

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SPOTLIGHT ON ALLERGY & ASTHMA


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

SHOULD YOU GET AN AIR PURIFIER?

Air purifiers promise to rid your home and office environment of all airborne contaminants so you'll feel better, get sick less often, and breathe easier overall. But can they live up to all that? Experts have given air purifiers mixed reviews. Studies have shown that some air filters reduce allergy symptoms and some provide no benefit. Air filters can central pollen that makes its way indoors because pollen is an airborne allergen. Annual cleaner and dust mites, however, are stickier allergens and more resistant to filters. While air filters can provide a certain level of air purification and they won't cause any harm to a home or office, reviews are mixed on their role in allergy symptom relief.

We hope that you have found today's column both interesting and informative. At the ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN, we are pleased to bring you the latest information about taking care of your allergies. For twenty years, Dr. Rowe has been providing effective, quality allergy and asthma care to the members of our community and the surrounding areas. When you or a loved one requires treatment for allergy or asthma problems, don't hesitate to call us at (248) 473-6600 to schedule an appointment. Our office is located at 34120 Meadowbrook Road, STE 201 in Novi. *The "Caring Allergist Who Gets Results."

If you have seasonal or year-round nasal allergy symptoms, ask about our ongoing clinical studies.



www.allergyinfo.org

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To register, call 248-374-5912 or email - remarried.ministry@wardchurch.org

SPOTLIGHT ON: ORTHODONTIC NEWS

by Donald M. Wayne, D.D.S., M.S.
Orthodontic Specialist

FEEL IT IN YOUR BONES

Orthodontic treatment was once primarily associated with the orthodontist. Today, however, orthodontists are equally able to correct underlying skeletal problems by using orthodontic treatment. This is important because underlying skeletal issues can result in "underbite," when the top teeth fall behind the bottom teeth, when together. Another potential skeletal problem is "overbite," which is characterized by top teeth that protrude far ahead of the lower teeth. There is also the improper bite known as "crossbite," in which the upper jaw is too narrow, causing the teeth to bite down with his or her upper teeth lying over the lower teeth. These and other problems may be assessed, as early as age seven, with an appointment with the orthodontist.

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PS: The orthodontist may take advantage of a young child's bone-growth potential to help correct underlying skeletal problems that lead to malocclusion (bad bite).

FAITH

Ramez Khuri, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 rkhuri@gannett.com

CHURCH CALENDAR

• **Meadowbrook Congregational Church** invites everyone to attend a Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. On Sunday, Sept. 11, the Jim Browne Memorial Chicken Fest will be held from 1-4 p.m. Donations are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children. Eat in or take out!
The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile roads. Call (248) 348-7757.

• **The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross** offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.)
Adult Bible Study is Sundays at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m.
Worship Service of Communion is held at 8:30 p.m. Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and Rite 2A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. Youth Worship Service is held at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.
Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi, Call (248) 427-1175 or visit www.churchoftheholycross.com.

New route for this year's CROP Walk

Annual event slated for Oct. 2

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

For 17 years, the Faith Community Presbyterian Church has made it a priority to send financial aid, raised by its annual CROP Walk, to Africa.

This year is no different, but the church is expanding to share its aid with other local organizations, such as the Northville Civic Center, the Northville Food Bank, the Northville Senior Center and Active Faith in South Lyon.

This year marks the walk's 18th straight year.
"We walk because they walk,"

Nick said. "It's for people who are hungry worldwide. Church World Service gives 75 percent of the proceeds to needy people in the world."

One quarter of the proceeds will stay in the Novi/Northville vicinity. Traditionally, that money used to go to an emergency food program in Novi. However, that company isn't as low on funds as it usually is, so it will go to other areas.

According to Betty Nick, a Missions Committee member with the church, the Novi/Northville CROP Walk on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 2 p.m., will start and end at the Novi Civic Center. The route will go south on 10 Mile Road, then west on Eight Mile through Northville, north on Taft Road and end up where it

Those interested in walking can register at the civic center Oct. 2, or call one of seven different churches:
 ■ The Holy Family Church of Novi at (248) 349-8847
 ■ St. James Catholic Church in Novi at (248) 347-7778
 ■ Novi United Methodist Church at (248) 349-2652
 ■ First United Methodist in Northville at (248) 349-1144
 ■ Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Novi at (248) 349-2345
 ■ First Presbyterian Church of Northville at (248) 349-0911
 ■ Meadowbrook Congregational Church at (248) 348-7757.

There is no fee to walk, and there will be two water stops along the way. Ice cream, sponsored by Guernsey, will be handed out at the end.

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@gannett.com.

• **Faith Community Presbyterian Church** invites you to worship at 10 a.m. through Sept. 4. On Sept. 11, the church will start the fall worship schedule with Rally Sunday, two services-9 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School and nursery care is offered at all services. The Rally Sunday Pancake Breakfast will begin immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service, and the various church committees will be offering music, games and LOGOS registration. Everyone is invited.
The Empty Nesters, our adult fellowship group, will be enjoying each other's company at Kensington Metro Park for a boat cruise and dinner. The church houses the Novi Emergency Food Program, a food bank that has been serving the hungry of Novi, New Hudson, and Weston for over 25 years.

AA meetings are held each Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Henderson is leading a class on world religions at 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights. The cost is \$5 to cover materials.
The on-going women's Bible study is 10 a.m. on Wednesday and 7 p.m. on Thursdays.
The church is located at 44400 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi. Call (248) 349-2345.

• **The Holy Family Church** is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and 10 Mile Road. Call (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org.

• **Oak Pointe Church** service times will be at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. every Sunday. Visit www.oakpointe.org or call (248) 912-0443.

• **St. James Catholic Church** is located at 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

• **First United Methodist Church of Northville** worship hour schedules are as follows: 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Sunday. The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (Taft Road), Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144.

• **Church of the Holy Cross** is located at 40700 W. 10 Mile Road (between Meadowbrook and Haggerty roads). Visit www.churchoftheholycross.com for more information.

• **St. John Lutheran Church** is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Summer services are at 9:15 and 11 a.m. (except for Sept. 4, which is 9:15 a.m. only). Nursery is provided. Call (248) 474-0584 for more information.

• **Crosspointe Meadows Church** meets Sundays at Meadowbrook Elementary School. Services are at 9 and 10:30 a.m. Fresh brewed hot coffee is available from 10-10:30 a.m. The church also has children's programs for all ages and a nursery available. The church is located at 29200 Meadowbrook Road, just south of 13 Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 427-2700 or www.crosspointemeadows.org.

• **The Novi United Methodist Church** is located at 41671 W. 10 Mile Road. Sunday worship is at 9:45 a.m. with Rev. Jacqueline E. Holdsworth. Call (248) 349-2652 for more information.

Compiled by Ramez Khuri

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An Important Message for Medicare Beneficiaries

In 2003, Congress passed the Medicare Modernization Act—legislation that will take full effect in 2006. Many of you have expressed concern over how this act will affect your Medicare coverage.



The short answer is, it's up to you. The Medicare Modernization Act is not a mandate—it simply provides choices.

- It does not eliminate or reduce your Medicare benefits
- It is not a "privatization" of Medicare
- You have a choice of options, including your current coverage
- For the first time, prescription drug coverage is offered

In the coming months, you'll be hearing a lot about Medicare options from a number of sources, including private health care companies. Before making any decisions, we encourage you to get the facts through one of the following unbiased resources:

- 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY#: 1-877-486-2048), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or www.medicare.gov—a federal government resource
- 1-800-803-7174, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ET, Mon.-Fri., or www.mymmap.org—the Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program
- Your local Area Agency on Aging

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Ad Council

SENIORS

Cal Stone, editor (248) 348-1700, ext. 113 cstone@gannett.com



Novi Senior Center kitchen and meals on Wheel volunteer Florence Baptist prepares a meal for a resident on a Friday morning.

Volunteering means the world

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Florence Baptist is the sergeant of the kitchen. Or at least that is what the 76-year-old Novi resident is called at the Novi Senior Center.

"Florence is what we call the epitome of a volunteer," said Rachel Zagoroli, senior services manager for the Novi Senior Center. "She is our kitchen sergeant, because she runs it the way she wants in."

Baptist has been volunteering for the center since 1993 and has no plans on stopping. "I've always done volunteer work," Baptist said. "At my age, you have to keep going or you might as well sit down and die." Baptist started her kitchen volunteering at the Pearl Harbor Naval Ship Yard during World War II.

"I helped in the cafeteria," she said. "During the war, we learned how to do many things. We made a lot for the Red Cross. I always done volunteer work."

Baptist said her kitchen work at the Novi Senior Center is for self satisfaction. "I love doing it, and I shall continue to do it until I cannot," she said.

Baptist's day begins between 7 and 7:30 a.m. when she begins counting all the dishes that will be needed for the day.

"I have everything ready for other volunteers to come in," she said. "And if anything special has to be done, they'll ask me and I'll do it for them."

Baptist also prepares the coffee for the day depending on what activities are being held, and she helps distribute the food to the guests.

"I bring the food to those that cannot come up and get it," Baptist said. "I also deliver the food to those that live in the center who cannot come down and eat lunch."

Baptist said her volunteer work keeps her busy and gives her the opportunity to make new friends.

"When I moved to Novi from Harrison Township, I didn't know

a soul," she said. "I was sent a brochure of things I could do, and I made new friends."

Aside from her volunteer work Monday through Friday, Baptist still makes time for the things she loves, like traveling.

"I've been to South America, Europe, Russia and on many cruises. I plan to keep traveling for as long as I can."

"That's what I love about volunteering. If I want to go on vacation, I make my plans and I go," Baptist said. "I do try to get others to fill in though."

The Novi Senior Center is always looking for dependable volunteers, and Baptist said it's well worth the few hours you put in.

"I wish more people would volunteer," she said. "In order to volunteer, you have to give, and the satisfaction of helping others is well worth it."

Tracy Mishler can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or tmishler@gannett.com.

BANNER

Friday 9/2

8:45 a.m. Panera Bread
9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
noon Lunch/Loggins*
12:30 p.m. Bingo
12:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge*
2-2:30 p.m. Massage/Healing Touch

Monday 9/5

Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday 9/6

9 a.m. Panera Bread
noon Line Dance
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation
10 a.m. Asian Pacific
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Bingo
2-2:30 p.m. Massage/Healing Touch

Wednesday 9/7

9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
10:30 a.m. Quilting
11 a.m. Blood Pressure
11 a.m. Taking Off Pounds Sensibly class
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Clogging cancelled
1:30 p.m. Sing-A-Long
2-2:30 p.m. Massage/Healing Touch

Thursday 9/8

9 a.m. Line dance cancelled
noon Lunch
9 a.m. "Kicks on Route 66" Senior Show
12:15 Bridge cancelled
1-2 p.m. Line dance cancelled
1:30-3 p.m. Book Discussion "Selection of Jane Austin"
2-2:30 p.m. Massage/Healing Touch

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

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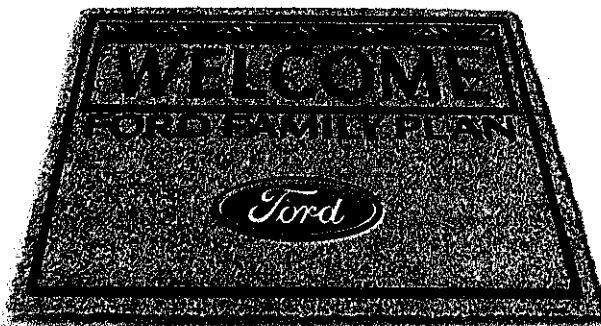
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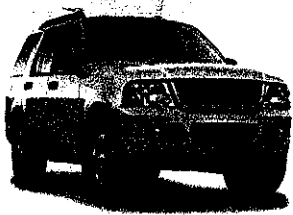


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(1) For special Ford Credit Bonus Cash on selected 2005 models, take new vehicle retail delivery from dealer stock by 9/6/05. Restrictions apply. See dealer for complete details. *Some payments higher, some lower. Not all Lessees will qualify for lowest payment. For special lease terms, RCL Cash, FMCC bonus cash take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 9/6/2005. RCL Cash may be taken in cash, but is used towards down payment in examples shown. Lease renewal cash only available to customers terminating their Ford Division Red Carpet Lease and re-lease for 24 months by 9/6/2005. Supplies are limited, not all dealers will have all featured models. Residency restrictions apply. See dealer for complete details. All payment examples are for Current Ford Employee and eligible family member Lessees. Customers must finance through Ford Credit. Subvented lease factors on F-150 and Explorer good only at FMCC Detroit West and Detroit North Branches, residency restriction apply.

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OPEN SATURDAYS



What a start!
The Novi Wildcats golf and tennis teams started the season off on the right foot, playing well in their respective tournaments. — Page 2B



Painful firsts
The Catholic Central Shamrocks football team would have liked a different ending to their first-ever home game last Saturday. — Page 5B



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SPORTS

Thursday, September 1, 2005

www.novinews.com

B1 Novi News

Quick Hits

Don't miss out

If you want to play college sports but don't have a ton of interest letters pouring in from across the country yet, then it's time to listen to what Jack Renkens has to say.

Renkens, the founder of Recruiting Realities, is a former college basketball coach and athletics director who now travels about the country speaking to student-athletes on how to prepare academically and athletically to reach the next level.

He will be at Novi High School Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. to speak and it's totally free for everyone.

This isn't just a place for blue-chip, heavily recruited players to go, but one for everyone who is interested in playing collegiate athletics. Student-athletes, parents and coaches are urged to attend the event.

Sometimes Renkens is funny, other times he's brutally honest. When all is said and done, he's an expert in the field of college recruiting and athletics. He's been on the other side of the fence and he's definitely the kind of speaker that has the ability to benefit those who come to hear what he has to say.

Toledo or bust

After parking at the Meijer parking lot last Friday night for the home opener at Catholic Central and taking the shuttle to the game, Novi News sports writer was more than surprised to end up standing in line for over 45 minutes waiting for a ride back to his car.

That was after the game was over, coach Tom Mach was interviewed and player Matt Perelli was interviewed as well.

In that amount of time, the people waiting in line could have nearly made it all the way back to Toledo with the Fighting Irish of the city's Central Catholic High School.

What do you mean it's not here?

A fellow stopped in at Novi High School Monday, asking just where it was he and his family could find the soccer fields.

After being told they weren't at the high school but rather at Novi Meadows just a hop, skip and a jump down the road the man and his family headed back down the hall.

"This is why we live in Ohio," was the last thing he said before going out of earshot.

Happily Novi's soccer field being built somewhere other than the high school doesn't drive other people to move to Michigan's southern neighbor.

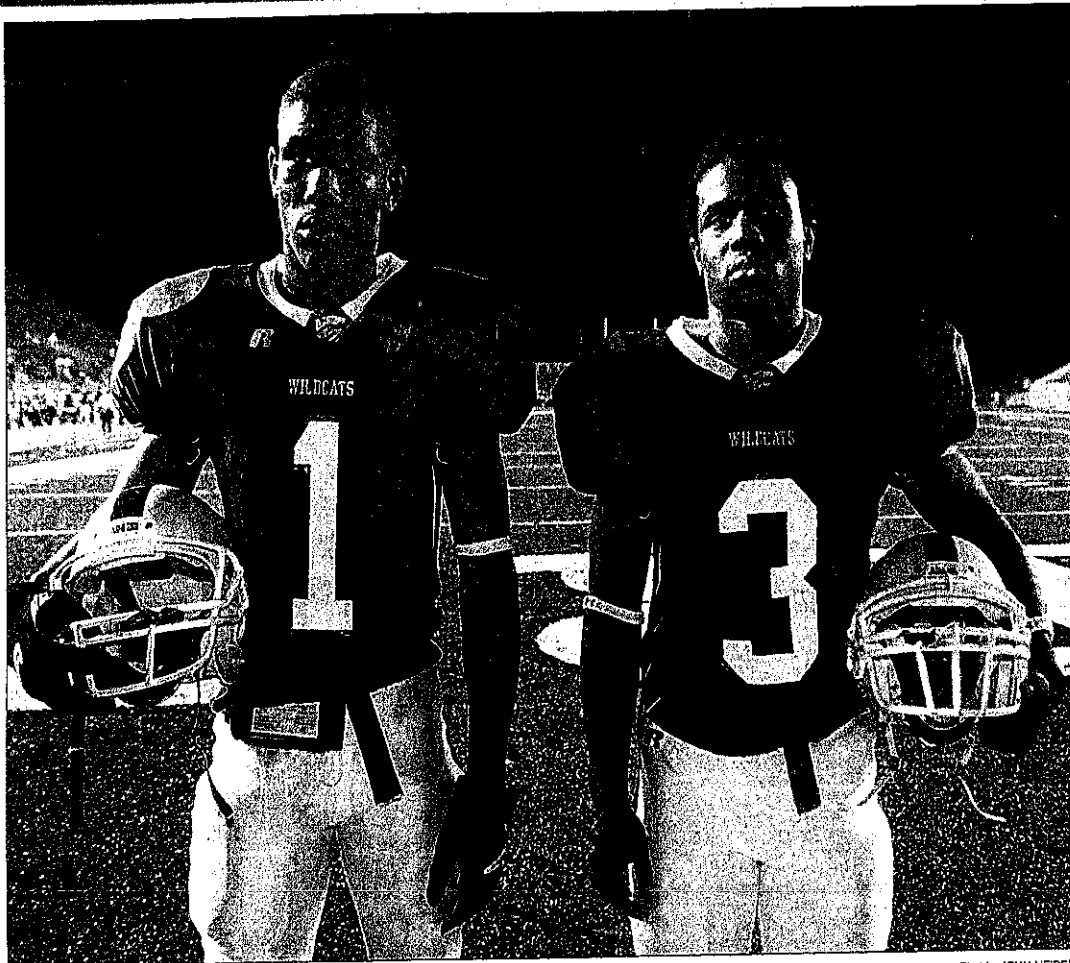
Clarification

Last week's swimming and diving preview said there is no local year-round swim team in Novi. There is.

The Novi Sturgeons have proven themselves to be a very competitive program. The squad, which swims out of the Sports Club of Novi, started in 2001. What the article should have read was the Novi Wildcats haven't been able to feel the full benefits of a year-round swim club in the area as of yet.

E-mail change

For those who are interested in e-mailing the sports department, please note there has been a change in the e-mail address. Sam Eggleston's new address is seggleston@gannett.com. Feel free to write him with any questions, comments or concerns regarding the sports section.

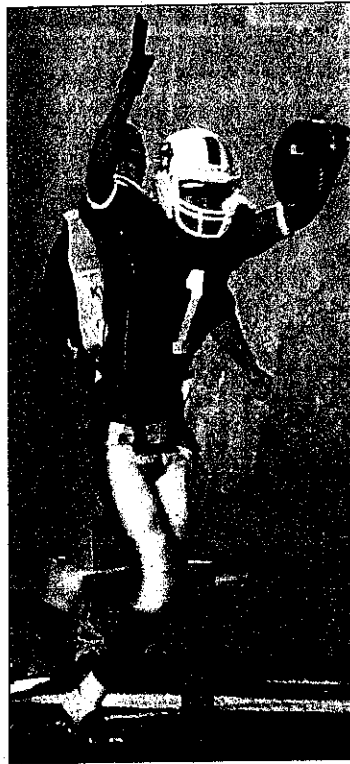


Phot by JOHN HEIDER

Wildcats and brothers Brandon, left, and David Carnegie.

Brandon and David Carnegie are looking to be DOUBLE TROUBLE

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER



Phot by JOHN HEIDER

Brandon Carnegie celebrates crossing the endzone line after scoring Novi's first TD against Chelsea last Saturday night.

It's a one-two punch any coach would love to have.

Thankfully for Tab Kellepourey, the Carnegie brothers are on his side.

Brandon, a wide receiver and defensive back, and David Carnegie, a runningback, are Wildcats at heart. Both have high hopes for the team this year, including a third Kensington Valley Conference championship.

"It's going to be tough, but I think we can do it," said David. "Milford, Brighton and Howell are going to be tough, but so are we."

And he would know. David was on the 2003 team that was nearly in the state finals and then on the 2004 team that lost to South Lyon after surprising many of the pundits.

This year he said he believes the team is as talented "all around" as any team he's been on.

"There are a lot of great players on this team," he said. "If we can come together we can beat anybody. The key is to keep improving every week."

Brandon, who scored a touchdown for Novi in their opener last Saturday and also collected an interception, said he has faith in this program and its coach.

"Novi is one of the top teams in the KVC," he said. "There are going to be some tough games for us this year, but there's no reason we can't win it again."

Adversity

Few players on Novi's football team know about adversity as much as the Carnegie brothers. Sure, both were members of the varsity team as sophomores and both have earned roles key to the success of the program.

But there was adversity before that. David remembers his mother being sick for a long time before he and his brother was told it was cancer spreading through her body. She died just

before Christmas, 2002.

"It was hard," he said. "My dad was a big part of helping us through it."

Brandon said their mother's death brought them closer together as brothers.

Conversation isn't just sports and girls any more. "We talk about life and family," he said. "We don't just take any of it for granted any more."

The future

The Carnegie brothers have similar goals. Both want to go to college and both want to use football as a vessel to help pay their way.

But there's a long road between now and then. Neither David nor Brandon denies that and both are prepared to take every step necessary to get there.

"We lifted in the off-season and worked out," said Brandon, who added he was in the best shape of his career so far.

David agreed, saying the assistance of alumni like the Woods twins, Josh and Jarrell, has helped a lot.

"They would help me out and point out things I was doing wrong when we'd watch tape," he said. "They still want me to send tapes to them after our games this year."

The brothers may be close, but they still have their sticking points. Each pointed out the other was an outstanding football player, but both noted their own reasons for being just a little better than the other.

"I'm probably better because I play both ways," Brandon joked.

"I'm faster," David laughed.

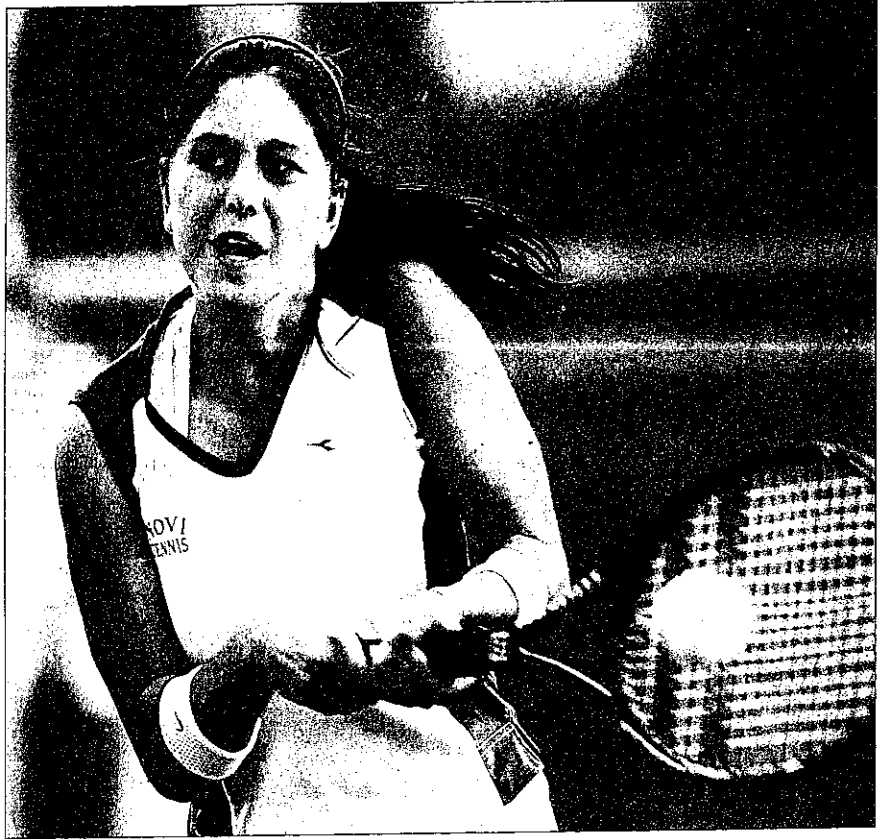
Friendly sibling rivalry, sure, but both have the same end of the season in mind.

"We're going to the playoffs," David said, flashing a practically trademarked smile.

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

By the numbers	7 p.m.	21	354	3	1	0-0	187
	Time the Wildcats will kick off against Piquette in football Friday night	First downs the Wildcats had against the Chelsea Bulldogs last week	Total yards in offense Novi gathered against a traditionally stingy Bulldogs defense	Interceptions thrown by Novi quarterback Steve Hart	Touchdowns thrown by Steve Hart, which just happened to win the game for Novi	Score at halftime between the Wildcats and the Bulldogs in the season opener	Yards passing Steve Hart picked up against Chelsea last week

Wildcats tennis starts strong



Novi's Diana Ticu returns a backhand shot in a late August match against Northville's Haley Johnston. At this point in their game, it was tied 5-5 in the first set.

The Novi Wildcats tennis team put up one heck of a fight when they took part in the Okemos Invitational last week.

The squad, coached by Jim Hanson, earned second place with 13 total points, finishing behind a very strong Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern team, which had 22 points. Taking third was Mattawan with seven points while Okemos finished with six for fourth place.

At one singles, Ayano Nakamura had a difficult day, failing to take very strong players. The first was Ashley Stockwell of Okemos, a match that went three sets, 2-6, 6-3, 7-5. The second round was against Erin Weldon, which Nakamura lost, 6-0, 6-2, before falling to Northville's Allison Fecko, 8-2.

At two singles, junior Carly Lyall had a promising day, defeating Michelle King of Mattawan, 6-3, 6-3, and Nicole Spagnuolo of Okemos, 6-3, 6-1. Lauren Fecko of Northville was Lyall's only loss on the day, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

Diana Ticu won two matches at three singles, beating Clair Hallan of Okemos, 6-3, 6-3, and Connie Cho of Mattawan, 6-2, 6-3. Tessa Morris of Northville was her only loss, 6-2, 6-4.

Freshman Jenn Felcher showed

promise at the tournament, earning two wins of her own as she beat Okemos' Leigh Asmus, 6-0, 6-1, and Mattawan's Rachel Dudley, 6-1, 6-4. Northville's Jessica Lat got the best of her though, winning in three sets, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

At one doubles, the team of Allison Yee and Amanda Brandemil earned two wins of their own. The duo defeated Mattawan's Sage Sackett and Jen Krattman, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-2, and Okemos' Prina Karve and Esba Kumar, 7-5, 7-5. Northville's Katie Langhan and Kesley Jones topped the Novi pair, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

The two doubles team of Jackie Wang and Siwei Wang topped Ariel Silverstein and Katie Baetow of Okemos, 6-1, 6-1, and Hannah Robb and Kelly Carbury of Mattawan, 6-3, 6-1, after losing their only match to Allison Roth and Carly Lienell of Northville, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (3).

Samantha Caldwell and Bindu Manyan didn't fare as well at three doubles, falling to Northville's Alice Kieman and Stephanie Rogers, 6-3, 6-1, and Mattawan's Morgan Schatt and Hollis Taylor, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4. The duo beat Okemos' Khashbu Sliha and Kim Bader, 6-2, 6-1.

At four doubles, it was Cassie Gordon and Melinda Har earning

victories for the Wildcats as they beat Mattawan's Allison Mair and Rachel Lefler, 6-4, 6-3, before topping Okemos' Sonya Pathak and Alicia Przygalski, 6-1, 2-6, 7-6 (5). The pair fell to Northville's Laura Heldevop and Michelle Feestra, 4-4, 6-2.

At five doubles, Jessica Thimm and Brittany Womack fell to teams from Northern and Okemos while Lauren Finantovic and Libby Schulte topped a team from Okemos but fell to a squad from Northern.

total of 316. Nick Prokop led the way with a 77 while Alex Lyall shot an 88. Scott Czekaj shot an 80 in the tournament while James Kim carded an 81. Brent Neville collected an 85 and Tom Civerilla shot a 90.

"Alex, Nick and Scott are doing a great job and Alex has opened some eyes with his play in Traverse City," Huss said. "There were 24 of the top teams at Traverse City and we finished 12th."

A SOUND OF THUNDER
SOME RULES SHOULD NEVER BE BROKEN

PG-13

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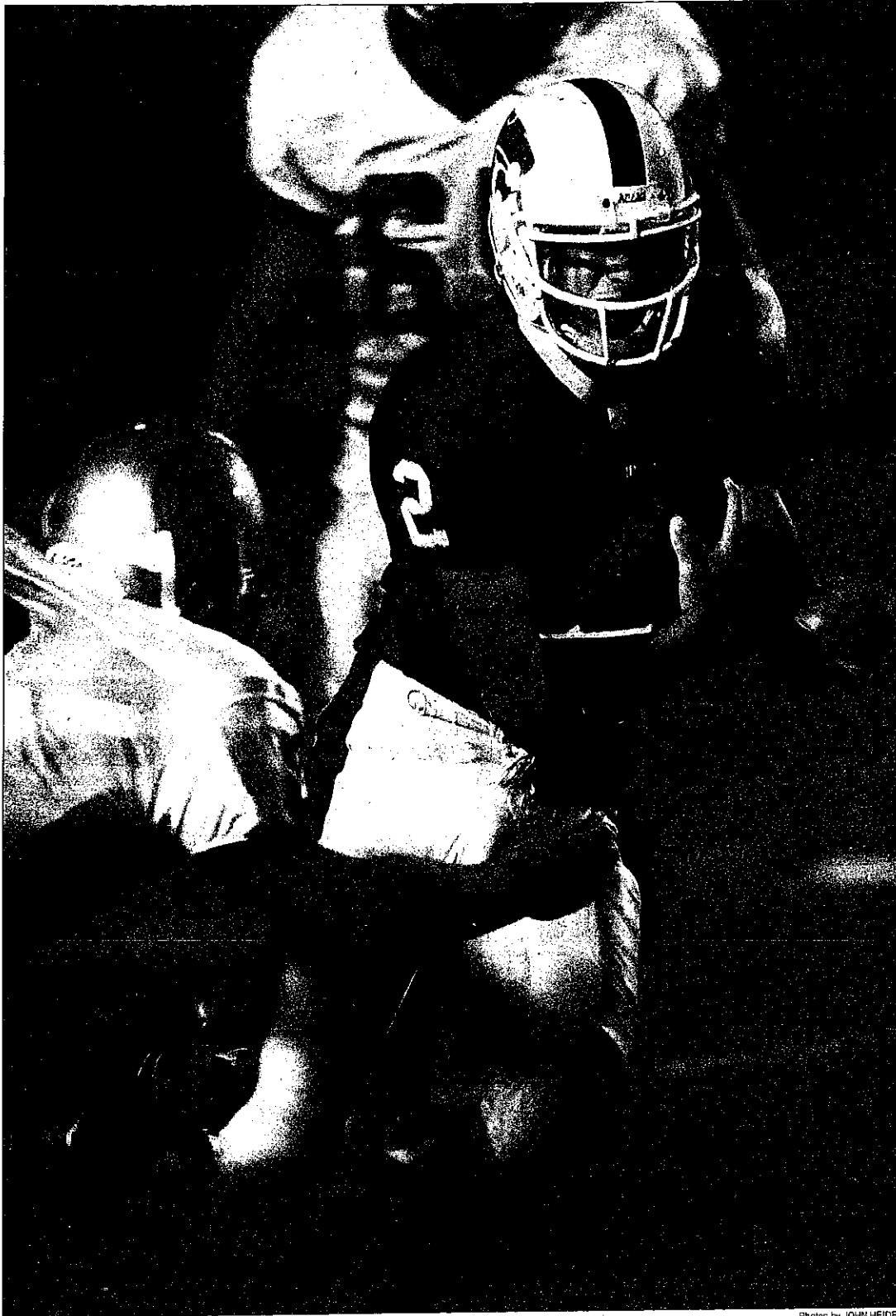
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Thank you, Adam Chandler!



Multi-talented junior finds endzone to help Novi football to huge victory

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Senior Steve Hart limped off the field like a battered old quarterback taking his final walk to the tunnel.

Except it was the first game of the year. Hart should have been running, fists pumping in the air and excitement glowing on his face following a 43-yard touchdown pass to Adam Chandler that sealed Novi's opening-day victory over the Chelsea Bulldogs, 14-7.

"Everything's fine except our quarterback is walking like me," laughed assistant coach John Osborne, who has been with the program for almost 40 years.

The Wildcats headed into the game knowing it was going to be tough to earn a win in the night-cap game of the inaugural Big Day Prep Showdown hosted by Eastern Michigan University last Saturday. Fans, to say the least, weren't disappointed.

After ending the half tied, 0-0, the Wildcats came out and picked off a pass to the cheer of the Novi faithful. The squad then buckled down, marching nearly the entire length of the field for their first score of the game on a reverse by Brandon Carnegie that took him 20 yards into the endzone. Pat Sijan notched the extra point to make it a 7-0 game.

Unfortunately, the Bulldogs didn't seem too upset over the score, instead marching down and adding a tally of their own on a 38-yard scoring strike from quarterback Cam Hawkins to Drew Wint. Chelsea added their own point-after to even it up.

"When they tied the game, we could have dropped down and given up," Novi coach Tad Kellepoorey said. "Adam Chandler had other ideas though."

The Wildcats used their timeouts to force a punt from the Bulldogs and then with 16 seconds left on the clock Hart found Chandler, who darted through the defense and wriggled into the endzone for the score.

"On that play I'm supposed to read the safety and then I saw Adam wide open," Hart said. "It was a great catch."

The sidelines erupted following the touchdown by Sijan to seal the game, 14-7. Chelsea tried to move the ball with the few seconds they had left, but an interception by Eric Zhao with no time left on the clock ended the attempt.

The Wildcats went to the air despite three interceptions earlier by Hart. Kellepoorey said it was never a consideration to let someone else throw the pass.

"Interceptions happen, that's exactly what we were thinking," he said. "If something happened then the defense would have went out on the field and played. Instead, our quarterback showed he can play through adversity and did a great job for us."

The Wildcats allowed just 163 yards while gathering 354 of their own on 69 plays. They had 21 first downs to Chelsea's eight.

Leading the way for Novi on the ground was Chandler, running for 70 yards on 14 carries while splitting time with Hart as the team's option quarterback. David Carnegie added 40 yards on 14 carries.

Through the air, Hart went 17-of-25 for 187 yards while throwing three interceptions and a touchdown. His favorite target was Brandon Carnegie, who hauled down seven receptions for 80 yards. Chandler had four for 75.

On the defensive end of the ball, Novi was led by Tyler Hoover, who collected 5.5 tackles with Derek McClelland notching 5.

The Wildcats (1-0) are slated to visit a much improved Pinckney Pirates (0-1) squad Friday at 7 p.m. in the first Kensington Valley Conference game.

"We're going to enjoy tonight and then start watching film and preparing for Pinckney," said Kellepoorey, who's team was cramping and tired in the heat of the first half.

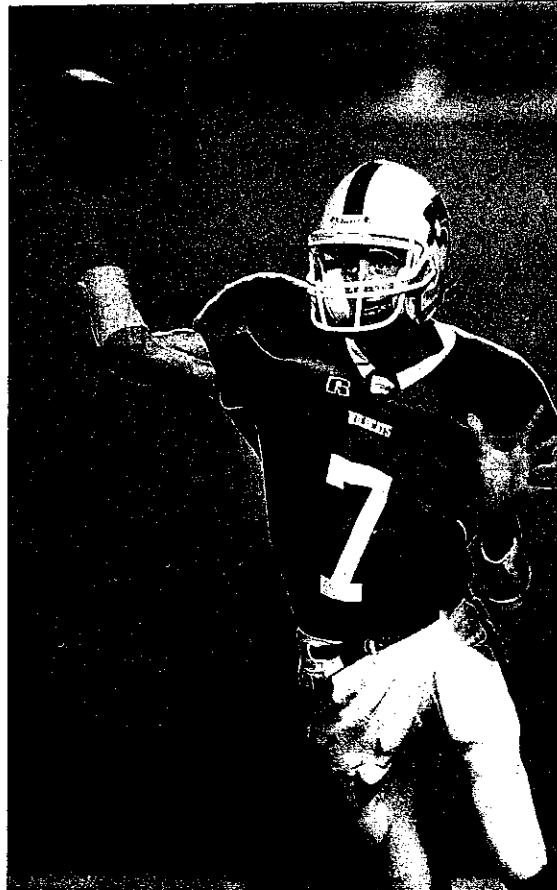
His fix?
"We're going to starve the coaches and run the players," he joked. "We've got to get these kids in playing shape and that's what we intend to do."

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

Novi option QB Adam Chandler eludes the tackle of a Chelsea Bulldog during a first half scramble at EMU's Rynearson Stadium.



Novi's Kyle Bagdon, right, drags down Chelsea's Zack Gregory during Saturday night's opener at EMU.



Novi QB Steve Hart threw for 187 yards and completed 17 of 25 passes.

The Novi Wildcat offensive line prepares to make a push against the Chelsea Bulldogs.

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Just being a part of the crowd

Novi tanker Kerry Abel has promising career ahead of her

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPORTS INTERN

Kerry Abel did it because her friends were doing it.

For the two-time state champion and Novi High School freshman, joining her first swim team was a good decision.

Abel began swimming for a country club team at age 8 and joined Livonia's Bulldog Aquatic Club team when she was 10. She won her first state title in the 50 yard butterfly at the age of 12, winning the 100 yard butterfly two years later. Her personal best times include a 1:05.09 in the 100 and a 2:12 in the 200 yard butterfly.

Novi High School head swim coach Bill McCord, returning to the team after a two-year hiatus, said that Abel joining the varsity team was a "nice surprise."

"I knew about a week before the season started that she would be coming to us," he said. "Normally, if I had not been out of the loop for two years, we would have seen an athlete like that coming, maybe a couple years down the line. Then, we're not sure if they're going to swim with us or choose to keep swimming with their club team... we haven't gotten that lucky that many times. It's pretty unusual for us."

McCord added that, two weeks into the season, Abel's work ethic has equalled her athleticism.

"What I've seen that I like is that she's very cooperative, follows directions, is here on time, and swims every inch of every practice," he said. "I also really like that she's fitting in so nicely with our team. There's no prima donna syndrome, she doesn't expect special treatment; she's just a nice freshman. Even if she hadn't come here as accomplished as she did, I'd still be really impressed with her in all those ways."

Although the first two weeks of high school practices have focused on technique rather than endurance and are less demanding than club practices, Abel is enjoying the new opportunity.

"I think I can keep up the pace that I set myself to at Bulldogs and I can keep myself in shape," she said. "With a new coach, I think there will be different stuff that might help me improve."

This year, Abel expects to qualify for the high school state meet in at least two events, most likely the 100 yard butterfly and 50 yard freestyle. In addition, she would like to break 1:00 in the 100 yard butterfly, her goal of over a year and a half.

She said that competing to achieve these goals is her favorite part of the sport.

"I like that you can just race (in swimming) without necessarily racing against somebody," she said. "It's always a race against yourself." As the competitive swim season begins, Abel is looking forward to the first of many



Novi freshman Kerry Abel is expected to be one of the top tankers on the team this year.

Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

new high school experiences. "I think it's going to go well," Abel said. "The team is a lot different, a lot better than I expected... we'll go far this season."

Courtney Ratkowiak is a sports reporter intern for the Novi News. Comments can be directed to (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

SPORTS SHORTS

Adult hockey leagues

Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills will offer separate Beginner Adult Developmental Hockey Leagues presented by Labatt for men and women during the fall/winter season.

Both leagues will run once per week for 25 weeks and will have similar structures. The first few weeks will consist of an instructional training camp before the beginning of games. The remainder of the season will consist of three games and one practice per month.

Included in the league fees is the cost of jerseys and instruction, who will also serve as referees during games in order to coach the players and teams during the play, on the bench and in between periods. As a bonus, all players in the BADHL will get a free membership to the SIFH Fitness Club from September to March, as well as the opportunity to purchase a RBK 5K Modano pattern hockey stick for just \$75 (retail is \$150) courtesy of RBK Hockey.

The women's league will run 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., Sept. 11, 2005-March 26, 2006 (no sessions on Nov. 27, Dec. 25, Jan. 1, or Feb. 5). The men's league will run 8:30 and 9:30 p.m., Sept. 19, 2005-March 20, 2006 (no sessions Oct. 31 or Dec. 26).

Registration is limited, call (248) 888-1400 or visit www.suburbanice.com.

Northville High School Cheer Squad Car Washes

TIMES/DATES: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays, Sept. 10, TCF Bank, Six Mile Road, west of Haggerty Road and Sept. 17, Goodtime Party Store area, Seven Mile Road.

DETAILS: Fund-raisers for Northville High School cheerleading squads.

Fall Youth Basketball

Now accepting player registrations for fall youth basketball. Registrations will continue through September 16 or until leagues are full. There will be a \$10 late fee applied for registrations received after September 16. The girls league is for fourth-sixth grades while the boys leagues are for fourth-fifth and sixth-seventh grades. All players must complete a personal data form, which will be used to formulate teams. Practice will be held one-two times per week beginning October 18. The eight game schedule is played primarily on Saturdays from October 29-December 10. Please contact Parks and Recreation, (248) 349-0203, extension 1405 for more information.

Adult Coaches Wanted

Adult Coaches are needed for Northville Parks and Recreation's youth basketball leagues. Your child will play for free if you volunteer to be a head coach. If you are interested, call Dave Demattos, (248) 349-0203, extension 1405.

Walk for a cure

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter (CCFA) will host its Second Annual Heel to Heal walk on Saturday, September 10 at Maybury State Park in Northville. Proceeds will go towards research and programming to help find a cause and cure for Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis.

More than a million people throughout the United States suffer from Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, known collectively as IBD. Both are painful diseases that affect the gastrointestinal tract, causing diarrhea, abdominal cramps, bleeding, and numerous complications including bowel obstruction and colon cancer. Most IBD sufferers are young when symptoms first appear.

"Our annual Heel to Heal walk is a great way for friends, family and community members to support those who are affected by Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis to support their loved ones," said

Novi Ice Arena will run a six-week fall session of its Learn to Skate Program from Wednesday, September 7-Saturday, October 22 (no classes October 12-15). Classes are offered Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and skate rental is available. In addition, Learn to Skate students get a punch card for free admission to open skating at Novi Ice Arena throughout the program they are enrolled in.

The following classes will be offered:

- Beginning Totos - 4:30-5:30
- Snowplow Sam 1-3 - 6:00-7:00
- Skate 1-5
- Skater's Edge Accelerated Bridge Program - NEW!
- Adult

Classes will run once per week for 30 minutes with optional 30-minute practice sessions. Open registration for Learn to Skate is underway. The Learn to Skate Program is very popular so call the Novi Ice Arena at 248-347-1010 or visit www.novoicearena.com today to inquire about the proper class for your skater.

Registration for Fall Learn to Skate underway

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Registration for Fall Learn to Skate underway

CATHOLIC CENTRAL

Irish have more fight than 'Rocks

Shamrocks drop first-ever home game

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central's Mike Perrelly discovered there will be a lot of firsts on his school's new home field.

He handled the first kick-off return, carried in the first touchdown and, unfortunately, suffered the first loss with his fellow Shamrocks as they fell 10-7, to Toledo Central Catholic.

"We had them," Perrelly said, shaking his head after the game. "We were in the red zone a lot but a couple things just didn't go our way."

Including a 37-yard field goal attempt that didn't find the uprights in an attempt to tie the game in the waning minutes.

Though the score indicates otherwise, it was arguable that Toledo was the better team. A first-quarter field goal from 26 yards out made the difference in the game but it was all knotted up from that point on.

With seven seconds off the clock in the second quarter, Toledo crossed the goal line for their only touchdown of the night. An extra point made it a 10-0 game.

The Shamrocks weren't about to be denied, especially in front of 5,000-plus fans in attendance. They took the ball from their 20 yard line and marched, methodically, to the left, right, left, left, middle and more until Perrelly took the ball four yards for the score. Scott Schrimsher notched the extra point to cut the Fighting Irish lead, 10-7.

"We just had too many mistakes," said coach Tom Mach following the game. "Football is a game where the team that makes the least mistakes wins. They made fewer than we did."

The entire second half was full of mistakes for both teams. After clawing and scratching for 37 yards and into Irish territory, the Shamrocks turned the ball over on downs on a fourth-and-one play. Toledo then took the ball and went 62 yards in the opposite direction before missing their chance at a first down on a fake field goal the Shamrocks instantly snuffed out.

In the fourth quarter, the Irish fumbled the football, which was recovered by Catholic Central's

"We're going to take this game and build on it. Practice is going to be a lot harder, but we're going to be ready for next week."

Matt Perrelly
Shamrocks Captain

Chris Davis. Fans began chanting "Why so quiet?" to the Toledo faithful but were soon quiet themselves following a fumble by 'Rocks quarterback Rob Forte.

With 1:28 left on the clock, Schrimsher tried for a tying field goal that failed and the Irish knelt the ball three times to end the game.

The Shamrocks are scheduled to host London Catholic Central Saturday at 7 p.m.

Mach said his squad will work hard and work on the positives from their opening-day loss.

"I was pleased with some of the things I saw," he said. "We told them we have to get better every day. We'll be better by next week. We can't worry about anything else because that's all we can do."

The Shamrocks football players were drying eyes and shedding their equipment in the locker room. There was already talk of playoffs. They only need six wins with eight more left ahead of them.

"We're not going to win just six," said Perrelly, who is a captain. "We're going to win more. We're going to take this game and build on it. Practice is going to be a lot harder, but we're going to be ready for next week."

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

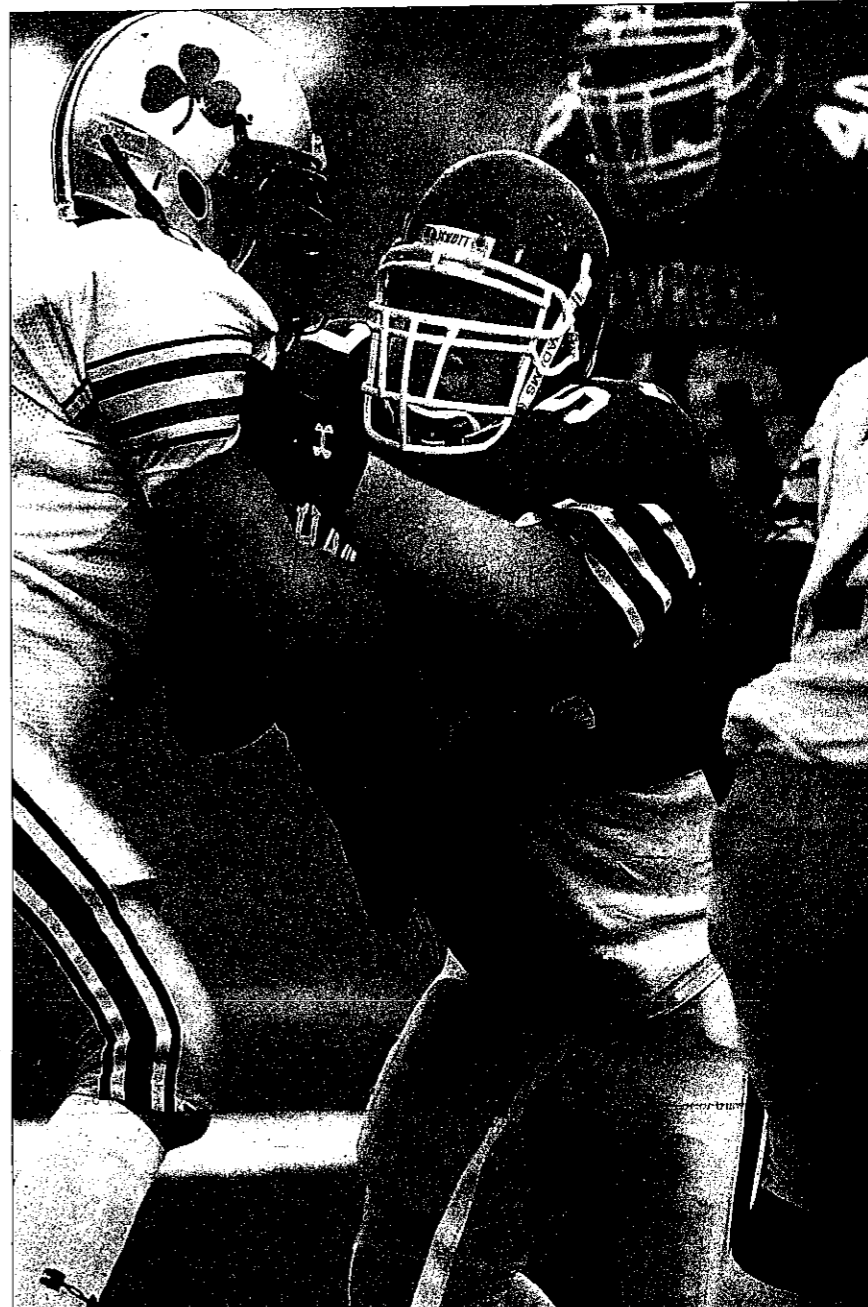


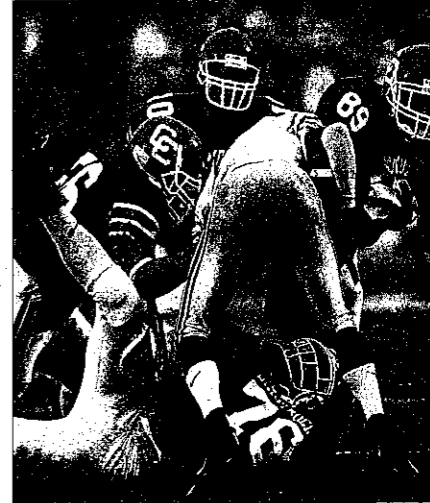
Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Noseguard Steve Thill takes on a blocker while trying to make a tackle during last Friday night's CC home opener.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Catholic Central's Matt Perrelly pushes into the endzone for CC's only score of the game, late in the second quarter.



Photos by JOHN HEIDER

ABOVE: A whole host of Shamrocks give a Toledo Catholic Central player a welcoming to their Novi stadium last Friday night. BELOW: A big tackle by a 'Rock.



Alex Lyall plays against himself

Call it a passion because it's definitely more than a recreation.

Alex Lyall, a sophomore golfer at Novi High School, is quickly becoming recognized as one of the top golfers on the team. He drives as well as nearly anyone on the team and puts and chips with the best of them.

So how does a sophomore get to be so good? Rumor has it, he's kept good company over the years.

"I'm friends with Jack Tyler," said the underclassman Wildcat of the Novi alumnus who now starts for Ohio State's golf team. "He's a great golfer."

And Lyall isn't too far behind. He helped lead his team to an impressive performance at the Traverse City tournament — featuring some of the best teams in the state. He also earned a medalist finish in a tournament and helped the Novi links team finish second behind Brighton in the Pre-Kensington Valley Conference tournament.

"So far I've had a pretty successful year," he said. "But I have a great team to play with. They're great teammates and I love playing with them."

Lyall has already been getting some deserved attention. He has not only been a leader on the golf team, he's also been on television.

"Yeah, I was on State Champs," he said Sunday. "I just watched it. They had me making a putt and then an interview."

When Lyall isn't wowing the competition, he's busy practicing his game. A member of the Walnut Creek golf club, Lyall was busy playing nine holes both Saturday and Sunday despite the weekend being his days off.

"I love playing golf," he said. "I just really enjoy it."

He was seven when he first picked up a club and he soon caught on thanks to his dad, Evan, teaching him the ins and outs of the game.

Through the years, the student has managed to outplay the elder Lyall.

"I've been able to beat him for the past couple years," Lyall said. "My dad has always helped me out and he still helps me out at the range and critiques me."

Lyall, who played in the Powerbuilt Junior Tour this summer, hopes to play well enough to eventually follow in his friend Jack Tyler's footsteps.

College golf, he said, sure sounds like a good goal.

"I'd love to play in college," he said. "Right now I'm just looking to do the best I can. I'm not worried about the course or the other players."

"I just have to play my best. That's the only thing I can control."

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



Sam Eggleston

"We have a very consistent team that can easily win without me," he said. "The team supports each other and that's not going to change if I have a bad day."

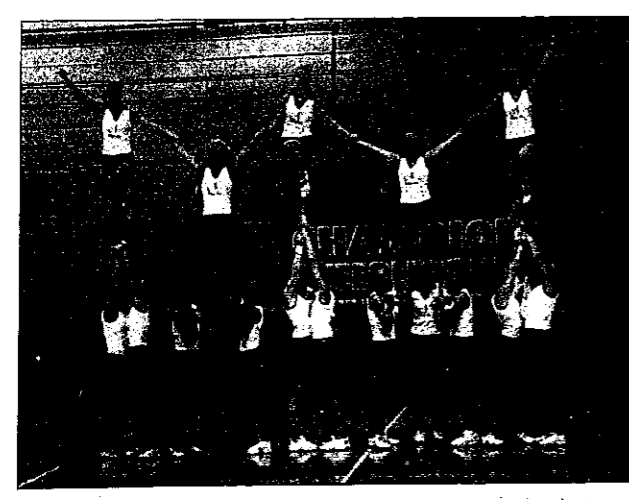
It helps that Lyall doesn't have to go far to find his closest friend, Nick Prokop. Prokop, who is also a sophomore, is a darn good golfer on the varsity team in his own right.

"We're about equal," Lyall said. "He's been my best friend for a long time and I'm glad we're golfing together again this year."

Lyall and Prokop don't have to go far to see each other off the course either — they live on

Cheerleading champs

The Novi Varsity Cheer team attended Champion Cheerleading's "Beast" Camp this past week. They were awarded a megaphone for being the strongest team at camp. Their strength was especially evident as they worked on learning new stunts at camp. The team is looking forward to showing off their new pyramids at the football games.



Submitted Photo

Want to get your event in sports shorts? E-mail Sam Eggleston at seggleston@gannett.com for more information.

Check back next week for the Novi News' continuing coverage of Catholic Central athletics

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 111

Thursday, September 1, 2005

A bigger game

The great annual spectacle is underway. Pre-season televised professional football games are already whetting the appetites of millions of Americans who are eager to witness countless hours of blitzes, bootlegs and buttonhooks all leading up to the game of games, Super Bowl XL in February 2006. By the time the season officially kicks off Sept. 8, fans will have enjoyed more than five dozen games.

The audience will no doubt include millions of American small-business owners, their families and their employees who, deservedly, find in the sport a welcome break from the day-to-day challenges of running a small firm. But this seemingly pleasurable pastime could distract those business owners from keeping their eyes on the ball when a much more important contest gets underway in early October 2005.

The hype and hoopla generated when Green Bay squares off against Carolina on Oct. 3 will certainly overshadow the opening season of the United States Supreme Court, which begins its annual session earlier that day by hearing oral arguments on cases it will consider and rule upon the following spring. Not to diminish the prominence of football, but the arguments made before the Big Bench will ultimately have a greater impact on the bottom lines of American businesses than the audible yells at the line of scrimmage.

While most of the news coverage of the Supreme Court today centers on potential nominations of new justices and social issues, small-business owners should pay careful attention to the court's docket. A significant number of the cases reviewed and ruled upon concern matters that affect virtually every aspect of free enterprise.

Just recently, the Supreme Court upheld decades of standing property rights laws by expanding the power of local governments to use the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution to condemn private property through the process of eminent domain, and delivered that property into the hands of another land-owner, who promised to use it to boost "economic development."

In recent sessions, the High Court has also handed down decisions that will make small employers liable for age discrimination if they create an employment policy that even unintentionally affects older workers. Additionally, the Supreme Court ruled that independent small business truckers have no recourse against states that want to impose even greater regulatory burdens on them than the federal government has established.

These rulings come on the heels of past Supreme Court sessions where justices have offered opinions that instantly and almost permanently change the rules of the game of entrepreneurship. Punitive damage awards, pensions, taxation, product liability and regulations of even the most mundane nature are appearing on the court's docket with alarming frequency.

It's an unfortunate fact that most Supreme Court justices, while experts in constitutional law, have virtually no experience with, and little understanding of, the trials and tribulations associated with starting and building a successful small business.

It won't be nearly as entertaining as televised sports, but watching every play the court makes and pointing out offside moves to Congress is a task that small-business owners must undertake right away. This game is for keeps.

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

ADVERTORIAL



Photos by HAL GOULD

Staff at the Henry Ford Optimeyes includes (left to right, back row) Rich, Jill, Barb, Mary (front) Dr. Fariba Dickinson, Aubrey, Sarah, Darr and Dr. Bruce Wolfis.

Henry Ford Optimeyes

When it comes to quality eye care, you want a name you can trust. That's why it's reassuring to know you're in good hands at Henry Ford Optimeyes in Milford. Their affiliation with the Henry Ford Community Care Services guarantees you'll receive the finest in optical care.

"What makes us different from anyone else is that Henry Ford is at our disposal, so if there's any problems, you're in good hands," explained Rich Cannon, Office Manager and certified by the American Board of Opticians.

Top-notch eye care includes optometry, lasik consultations, well vision and diabetic exams, treatment for glaucoma and cataracts using the latest advances and free exams for infants up to 12 months old. It's a way they encourage vision awareness for the entire family. Services are performed by dedicated optometrists Dr. Fariba Dickinson, Dr. Bruce Wolfis and ophthalmologist Dr. Anuradha Prasad - they're three more reasons you can expect great care. They're also proud of their American Board of Optician's certified staff.

In addition to providing state of the art service, a recent remodel/expansion ensures that customers are comfortable during their visit. Now covering 3,000 square feet, the facility is entirely refurnished with an attractive contemporary look - warm hues and comfortable furnishings. The renovation, which began last February was completed last June. Patients can now relax in front of a flat screen plasma television in the reception area. Four exam rooms and a treatment room complete the office. Handicapped friendly facilities were improved for patients with those needs.

AT A GLANCE

Optimeyes
Prospect Hill Shopping Center
Dr. Fariba Dickinson, Optometrist
Dr. Bruce Wolfis, Optometrist
Dr. Anuradha Prasad, Ophthalmologist
516 Highland Avenue
Milford MI 48381
(248) 684-1229
Hours: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The expanded area also allows them to offer patients an incredible range of styles. They carry a broad spectrum from basic to designer frames - approximately 1200 styles including Gucci, LaFonte, Valentino and Nautica. Polarized and anti-glare features are available on prescription lenses to provide greater protection.

Contact lenses are also an important service they provide. Henry Ford Optimeyes provides full contact lens availability and all the supplies necessary for care as well. Free eyeglass adjustments and repair work is done on site.

Customer satisfaction is a daily commitment for the staff at the Milford facility. Though they offer a quality and price guarantee on their glasses - they believe in going beyond.

"We do so much more. We go out of our way to do whatever's necessary. We don't let anyone leave until they're completely satisfied," said Cannon.

They worked hard to make



Henry Ford Optimeyes, located in Prospect Hill (across from ACE Hardware), features a wide selection of eyewear.

things exactly right for Tom Arlow and his wife, Cheryl, of West Bloomfield. He says it's really about the people who go above and beyond to satisfy their patients.

"They're very attentive, they're very good at what they do - they're helpful and friendly," said Tom Arlow. "They treat you the way you wish you were treated at any store."

Arlow liked the wide selection and the fact they offer full service (ophthalmology) at the newly expanded facilities.

Another convenient service provided by Henry Ford Optimeyes is filling outside prescriptions.

"A lot of people don't know that you can come in to fill a prescription from another eye care provider," Rich Cannon pointed out.

Along with the new and improved facilities, the Milford facility has increased office hours for their patient's convenience. They now offer expanded evening and weekend hours. Office hours are six days a week, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

In case you normally search for a facility that participates with your insurance provider, Henry Ford Optimeyes accepts most types of insurance cover-

age, including HAP, Medicare, Blue Cross, NVA, Ford, VSP and many more.

Why not start the school year off on the right foot? Now is a great time to schedule a back to school optical exam for the children, whether they're in junior high or off to college. Special pricing is available on glasses for children ages 14 and under.

Henry Ford Optimeyes is part of the local Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce and is conveniently located in the Prospect Hill Shopping Center near Kroger. Visit them at 516 Highland Avenue in downtown Milford to schedule an appointment, or call (248) 684-1229.

OptimEyes

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- Free contact lens availability
- Free contact lens supplies
- Free contact lens fitting
- Free contact lens cleaning
- Free contact lens replacement
- Free contact lens repair
- Free contact lens disposal
- Free contact lens storage
- Free contact lens disposal
- Free contact lens storage
- Free contact lens disposal
- Free contact lens storage

Store Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9 am to 8 pm
Saturday: 8 am to 6 pm

OptimEyes

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Receive at time of eye examination. No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Offer valid at Milford office only.

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Business news, market trends, and industry updates. Contact us at 248-684-1229.