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Thursday, April 6, 2006 www.novinews.com 50¢

INSIDE

Getting tough
 As part of the federal government's No Child Left Behind act, next fall's eighth graders throughout Michigan will face a tougher high school curriculum than ever before.
 — Page 12A

Use the Force
 Jennifer Harvey used the word "sticktoitiveness" to describe this year's Novi High Frog Force 503 robotics team. She was referring to the team's dramatic come-from-behind victory in Grand Rapids.
 — Page 14A

Novi teens suspects
 South Lyon Police said the two students suspected of setting a fire in the South Lyon High School auditorium might be prosecuted as adults, pending a decision from the Oakland County Prosecutor's office.
 — Page 16A

SPORTS



Spring Sports Preview
 Can the Novi Wildcats do what no other girls soccer program has ever done? Can they win back-to-back state titles? See what our sports staff thinks in the Spring Sports Preview.
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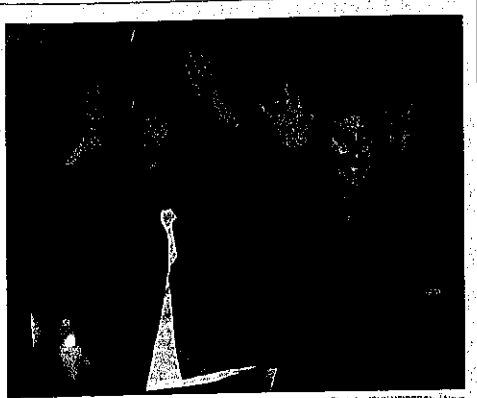
CONTACT US

Novi News
 104 W. Main
 Northville, MI 48167

- Classifieds: (888) 999-1288
- Newsroom: (248) 349-1700
- Fax: (248) 349-9832
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Oath of the woods
 Laura and Rob Sama, the siblings who created the "Stranger in the Woods" book and video, have their Novi Town Hall Lecture Series audience take an "oath of the woods" complete with hand-anters before last Wednesday's presentation. Marcia Dominick, center, and Susan Johnson, right, join in on the oath-taking.
 Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Village Oaks loses a friend in Mr. Denny

■ Custodian passed away at his home after 28 years on job

By Ramez Khuri
 STAFF WRITER

Dennis Newman, long-time Village Oaks Elementary School building engineer and dog friend to many, passed away at his home last Saturday after undergoing lung surgery a week earlier.
 His funeral was held at O'Brien/Guthrie Funeral Home in Novi yesterday.
 Dave Brown, current Novi school board member and former principal of the school, said Newman came through the surgery very well and was doing fine just a little over a week ago.
 "I was over his house last Wednesday and he said 'I'm just amazed at how well I'm doing,'" said Brown. "We have no idea what the cause of death was."
 Newman's son, Michael, found him deceased Saturday at 2 p.m. in his home. He is also survived by his daughter, Connie, and grandchildren, Alexis, William, Dylan and Tristan.
 Newman was the brother of



Dennis Newman

Jim, Carol, Bricker, Ron, Mike, Steve and Shelby.
 "Newman, 51, worked at Village Oaks for 28 years. He worked evenings for 10 years until Nov. 20, 1987, when he was appointed building engineer—a position he held for the rest of his tenure.
 "He was everybody's friend," said Brown. "He was a very efficient, hard-working, dependable person. There are so many people who knew him, cared for him and love him. He was just a very special person."
 Brown worked closely with Newman for over 20 years. He said the two never had a harsh

word between them. He said Newman was always patient and loving with students, parents and teachers.
 "He was the best in the district, and he will really be sorely missed," said Brown. "He changed teachers' tires, he would brush the snow off their cars, just whatever he could do to help out, he would do."

Always willing to help
 Village Oaks second grade teacher Lisa Cramer worked with Newman 11 years. She described him as a selfless person who was always willing to lend a hand, no matter what the situation was.
 "Everyone had a bond with him and knew just what an incredibly wonderful person he was," said Cramer. "He really bonded with everyone in different ways."
 Cramer said the staff met last Sunday at the school to grieve and share stories about their friend. She said about 40 staff members came.
 Newman was also known as "Mr. Denny" by the staff and "Superman" by kindergarten for his ability to lift tables with one arm.
 Cramer said she will remember him most for his role in releasing baby ducks to the will.

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Chamber proposes changes to bylaws

■ Members must be present at luncheon on Tuesday to vote

By Pam Fleming
 STAFF WRITER

Novi Chamber of Commerce members will vote Tuesday on whether to adopt new bylaws proposing some significant and, some say, questionable changes.
 Only members who attend the noon luncheon at Fox Run Village will be eligible to vote.

The proposed changes would include giving the president a vote and keeping the president's salary confidential.

In the Chamber's March newsletter, members received a summary of the proposed changes, outlining the current and proposed bylaws.

In a separate mailing last week, members received a copy of the complete proposed bylaws by mail.

The proposed bylaws are the result of at least three years of review by various committees, the board and legal counsel, according to Peggy Hayes, board chair.

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What are the major changes?

The following are brief summaries of the proposed changes to the bylaws of the Novi Chamber of Commerce. For the full language of the specific current bylaws affected and the proposed changes, please see page 10A.

■ There are now two types of membership—regular and honoraria. The proposed bylaws eliminates the honorary membership.

■ Members currently have no right to elect a new member until the proposed bylaws committee has the right to elect a new member. It is now a member's right to elect a new member.

■ The president is currently elected every two years. The proposed bylaws will change the current bylaws. Under the proposed bylaws, only the executive committee would file the president and fix the salary, which would be kept confidential.

■ Board membership is now limited to two consecutive terms. Proposed bylaws would allow one additional term after waiting two consecutive calendar years.

■ A board member can be re-elected if there is a consecutive board meeting. Proposed bylaws would limit current bylaws board meetings are held and proposed bylaws board members shall be limited if they miss three meetings consecutively.

■ The president currently has no vote. Under proposed bylaws, the president would be a voting member of the board, the executive committee and all other chamber committees.

■ Present bylaws state that the president is not a member of the executive committee. Under proposed bylaws, the president is a voting, ex-officio member.

■ Currently, an annual audit is required to be performed by a public accountant. Proposed bylaws would allow the board to appoint a member who is not a board member but who is a certified public accountant to perform the audit.

Jane Riddle asks, "Where's your pass?"

■ Novi High's hall monitor shows patience while working with students

By Ramez Khuri
 STAFF WRITER

With about 2,000 teenagers roaming the halls of Novi High day in and day out, it's pretty hard not to expect disagreements or altercations every now and then.
 But in the five years Jane Riddle has been a hall monitor at the school, she can only recall two incidents which got out of hand.
 "That's not much in five years," said Riddle. "That's pretty good."
 Riddle is more than just someone who checks for hall passes. Her responsibilities also include delivering passes, monitoring the lunchroom and patrolling halls to

make sure kids aren't loitering or skipping class.
 She says she enjoys her job 99.9 percent of the time, but as in all walks of life, there are those moments when she must exhibit patience in dealing with situations.
 "Most of the students are extremely nice," said Riddle. "You do get kids with attitude, but that's expected with teenagers. I know, everybody has a bad day sometimes, so I'm less likely to jump on somebody I know is normally respectful and kind."

Riddle knows students sometimes don't understand why they must follow some of the rules of the school. But she hopes they know each rule is there for a reason.
 "The fact that students need permission to go out to their cars during the day is a perfect example. Riddle said students will often prop a door open thinking it's not a big deal. But on the contrary, it can turn into a serious situation."

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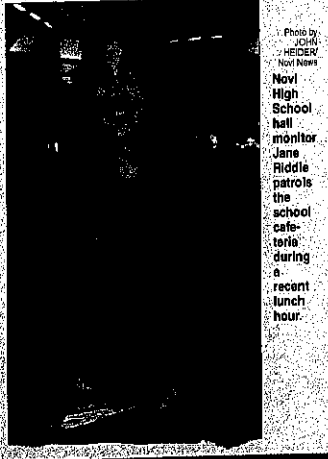


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi High School hall monitor Jane Riddle patrols the school cafeteria during a recent lunch hour.

New real estate section debuts

Homejournal.com Weekly Real Estate debuts today on the Web and as part of your hometown Novi News.
 "We pride ourselves at listening and reacting to our advertisers at the Observer & Excelsior and this is exactly what we have done partnering with our sister publications at the Royal Oak Mirror and the hometown weeklies in Northville, Novi, Millard and South Lyon to produce a two-zone product which will reach over 210,000 households in the much sought-after metro marketplace," said Peter Neill, O&E vice president and general manager.
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New real estate section debuts today

continued from front page

office affiliation with our branded hometownlife.com 24/7 Web site and printing the product with full color on every page at the Detroit Newspaper Partnership state-of-the-art printing presses in Sterling Heights," he added.

"If you are buying or selling a home in western Wayne and Oakland counties, the new print section reaches more than 210,000 readers and the Web site attracts more than one million monthly page views.

Real estate advertising and news is presented in a tabloid that's reader friendly and in full color. In addition, you'll find the new section at more than 25 Meijer locations in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties.

"This is an exciting new product that combines the power of print and the immediacy of the Web to bring value to readers and advertisers alike in our communities," said Richard Ramhoff, president and publisher of the Novi News.

On the Web, the new Webby Real Estate section has more than 200 local real estate offices and more than 24,000 local listings at

YEN: (24,000) OVER: (10,000) HOMETOWN LIFE.com

REAL ESTATE

INSIDE

"We feel this product will help deliver the advertising message, not only in print, but to available to online users on a 24-hour basis—something that business and consumers today expect."

Novi High's hall monitor shows patience while working with students

continued from front page

"I did find a gentleman one day with a rice steamer in the school during school hours," said Riddle. "I found a door propped open, probably by a student. I kicked out the prop, and I turned around and there was an appliance plugged into the wall. I called the liaison officer and he came and found the guy. That's probably

how this guy got in. It was just a bizarre thing that doesn't happen very often. It was the most bizarre incident I've had here."

"During a normal course of the day doors to the stadium are the ones which stay open. Riddle and other hall monitors check other doors in the school periodically throughout the day, as do parking attendants, to make sure they're locked.

Early to bed

While most of Michigan's work force is starting their day at 9 a.m., Riddle has already been at work for two hours. She said 7 a.m. was an adjustment at first, but now she can't see herself doing it any differently.

"I like to get to work early," she said. "I just don't like to walk in and start, so I'm usually here 15 minutes early to check my e-mail. As the days are getting nicer it's even better because you're done at 2:15 p.m. and you still have some afternoon left to enjoy."

Riddle likes to think of herself as an easy-going person, who tries to look at every situation from all perspectives. She believes that it's what makes her a behind-the-scenes, unsung hero who makes Novi High School run smoothly every day.

"This is a fun place to work," said Riddle. "I'm privileged to be here."

Ramirez 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@novi.net.com

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Be sure to attend the noon luncheon at Fox Run Village next Tuesday to vote on the proposed bylaw changes.

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Jane Riddle
 Age: 43
 Occupation: Novi High School hall monitor/reading secretary
 Family: husband Bruce; son Joshua, 24; daughter, Kaiti, 19
 Education: Bachelor's degree in psychology from Eastern Michigan University
 Awards: Riddle considers the occasional things she receives from students as awards.
 From: She attended Liberton High West School in Detroit and graduated from Franklin in Livonia. She also has an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College.
 Years in position: five
 Crew up in: Detroit

Custodian passed away at his home after 28 years on job

continued from front page

"Every year we have ducks that lay their eggs in our courtyard," she said. "He used to put a pool out for them and feed them."

She said in late spring the children would form two lines of bodies, and Newman would walk in front while the baby ducks followed him to Brook Farm Park.

"He then released them into the wild," said Cantor. "He was like the father duck. The whole school will remember him by that."

The Village Oaks staff decided to dismiss school at noon yesterday so they could attend the funeral.

"That tells you something of how much he's respected," said Brown. "We don't cancel school for anything. But it was agreed by the entire staff who desperately wanted to attend and show their respect."

Memorial contributions may be made in Newman's name to the Dennis Newman Memorial Fund, c/o Village Oaks School, Online condolences may be made at www.obitcentral.com/funerals.

Ramirez 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@novi.net.com

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BUSINESS

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Taking investment to the next level

■ Pair of Novi residents fight to find the right retirement

By Tracy Mishler
STAFF WRITER

Michael Bernhardt wants to set all his customers up for success. The 47-year-old Novi resident and owner of M3 Investment Services in Berkley said listening to clients is the most important part of business.

"Most of our competitors are selling a product," Bernhardt said. "There's more to it if you're really serving the client's interest."

M3 Investment Services is a financial services company offering retirement planning for teachers, administrators and other school system personnel.

The company specializes in planning for employees of 501(c) 3 organizations, including public hospitals, charter schools, and non-profit organizations.

Along with his partner, Michael Pesendorfer, also of Novi, Bernhardt said their company's services are available to several school districts in Michigan.

"Michael and I never stop beating that drum about doing the right thing for the client," Pesendorfer said.

The company recently launched a Web site, www.M3InvestmentServices.com. "We started the company in 1996, and we wanted to bring new services to our clients," Bernhardt

said. Pesendorfer said everyone has his or her own schedule, and a Web site is perfect to view any time of the day.

"People are accustomed to doing things on their own timetable," he said. "We wanted to make that available."

"We also wanted a positive experience. Something fun and different. We want it to be a total experience," he added.

Pesendorfer said redesigning their company's Web site would allow them to make it more interactive and entertaining.

"I wanted prospective customers who come to M3 Investment's Web site to be able to get the information they need, but I also wanted them to have some fun," he said.

With a cartoon version of Albert Einstein leading clients through pages of information, Pesendorfer said the site provides all the tools and information needed to sit down with an M3 representative.

Outside the office

When they're not working on their Web site, or running their company, both Pesendorfer and Bernhardt like to kickback and relax.

"I travel a lot, taking trips up north on the weekends with my family," Bernhardt said.

He is also a trustee for the Walled Lake School District's educational foundation, the Foundation of Excellence.

Pesendorfer, 46, said he spends as much time as he can with his wife and two children.



M3 Investment Services

Owners: Michael Bernhardt and Michael Pesendorfer
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Hours: 8:30 AM - 5 PM
Monday - Tuesday: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Web site: www.M3InvestmentServices.com

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
Novi residents Michael Pesendorfer, standing, and Michael Bernhardt take a look at their M3 Investment Services web site that's both interactive and amusing for their clients.

for our clients and meet their needs."

Tracy Mishler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com.

"I spend a lot of time with my son, who plays travel baseball with the Novi Heat," he said. "In the summer I'm at the baseball field and in the winter, I'm at the (ice) rink."

Bernhardt said their goal is to

continue expanding their business to the west side of the state.

"Michael and I would love to move our office to Novi, but our employees wouldn't be too happy," Pesendorfer said.

Currently, the M3 Investment

Services has two offices, located in Berkley and Muskegon.

"We also do a lot of business in the Novi, Northville, Farmington Hills and Walled Lake areas," Pesendorfer said. "Our goal is to provide a high level of services

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Rankin receives award

Citizens Bank announced today that mortgage loan originator Marvin Rankin has received the Chairman's Gold Award for mortgage loan productivity for 2005.

The award is presented annually to originators who excel in both loan closings and dollar production. Citizens Banking Corporation currently has 80 loan originators, with only two receiving the Chairman's Gold Award. Rankin's efforts resulted in the closing of residential mortgages totaling \$25 million in the Novi market.

Rankin has 18 years of experience in mortgage services, and is located at Citizens Bank's Novi Center offices at 28001 Cabot Drive in Novi.

Chrysler welcomes diversity

Chrysler Group was honored by DiversityBusiness.com as a Top 50 Corporation for Multicultural Business Opportunities of 2006 at the Sixth Annual DiversityBusiness.com Multicultural Awards Ceremony and Conference in Las Vegas.

The award, also called the Div50, is recognition of the Top 50 Diversity Corporations in the United States. The award is based upon such factors as the volume, consistency and quality of business opportunities a company grants to women and minority-owned suppliers.

Div50 is produced annually by DiversityBusiness.com.

In the last seven years, Chrysler Group has more than doubled dollars spent with minority suppliers, from \$1.7 billion in 1998 to \$3.8 billion in 2005. This increase demonstrates the company's long-term commitment to the economic development and growth of its minority suppliers, in addition to designating Chrysler Group as an industry leader in supplier development.

Grand opening of health club

Balance Fitness in Walked Lake will be hosting its grand opening 4-30 p.m. Monday. Balance Fitness will be offering their best specials yet on memberships and will also have 20% vendor tables set up. The facility is located at 6863 N. Pantego Trail, N.

Lending money

The Michigan Credit Union League, based in Northville, is teaming up with state lawmakers to educate youth and young adults about money management during April - Youth Financial Literacy Month.

The 4th Annual "Financial Literacy Legislative Challenge" is an effort that pairs state lawmakers with credit union professionals to

teach youth and young adults about money, credit and debt, has garnered bipartisan support from the Michigan Legislature.

Youth financial literacy outreach is an ongoing mission for Michigan credit unions. During the 2004-05 school year alone, credit unions staffed over 46,000 students in Michigan about personal finance, according to the National Youth Involvement Board (NYIB). Michigan credit unions also operate over 240 student-run credit union branches in school districts across the state. Many other credit unions

have special youth and teen savings clubs complete with their own newsletters, events and membership benefits.

Throwing out the SBT

The Michigan Business and Professional Association (MBPA), along with its sister association the Michigan Food and Beverage Association (MFBA), are using their resources of over 20,000 members employing over 160,000 employees to work alongside of, and give a boost to, Oakland

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson's petition drive to repeal Michigan's single business tax.

"We are contacting our members and encouraging them to sign the petition and/or become more involved and take a petition around to their neighboring businesses," said Ed Deely, president the association. "The Repeal SBT Committee has done a wonderful job of making the petition accessible and getting the word out. The best we can do is help them obtain signatures."

Compiled by Tracy Mishler

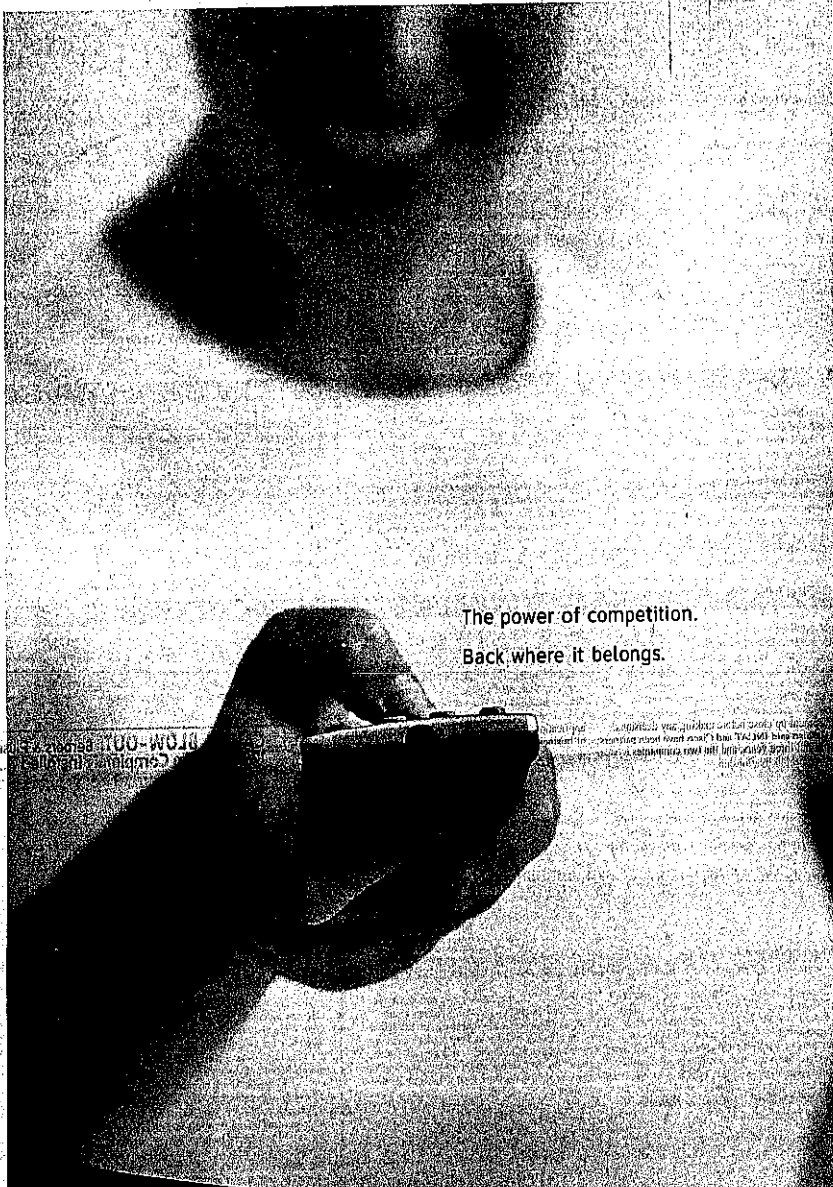
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Do you have a whiff of your business? Are you getting up in the air (or out of town)? Is your business heading in an exciting new direction? Celebrate an anniversary approaching? If so, we want to know! Send your business briefs to:

Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167

or e-mail to: catone@ann.com

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) 349-1700, ext. 115.



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Chamber bylaw revisions up for vote Tues.

Proposed changes took several weeks

continued from front page

The 17-member board approved the proposed bylaws at their January meeting. "These bylaws have not been updated for a number of years," Hayes said. "Primarily what we're trying to do is bring them up to date with current rules and laws that are common with organizations like our chamber," she said. "The current bylaws were last revised on Oct. 18, 1994. "We may look at them again in

a year," she added. "We think these changes are absolutely necessary to get us up to speed."

Some of the changes

One of the most significant proposed changes would allow only the executive committee to determine the president's salary, which would be kept confidential from the rest of the board and the membership. The proposed bylaws would also give voting power to the president, who would also sit on the executive committee. This committee currently includes the chair, chair elect, vice chair, treasurer and past chair. "I think there is a provision that the president would sit on any votes concerning their pay

increase," said Hayes. A Novi News review of the proposed bylaws does not indicate any such provision.

Though Hayes said she was not sure what type of organization the chamber is, Nora Champion, Chamber president, said it is a 501(c)(6) organization under the Internal Revenue Code.



N. Champion

"It is a nonprofit organization, but we pay taxes," said Champion. Hayes would not divulge the

amount of Champion's current salary.

"We're not a governmental organization, we're a private organization, so we're not required to release information to the public about the president's salary," Hayes said. "Our attorneys have said this is common practice."

The Chamber's treasurer, Jim Koster, said Champion's current annual salary is \$75,000. She was hired six years ago. The Chamber's Web site (www.wichamber.com) lists one staff member, Claudia Holness, executive assistant.

The Chamber's budget for this year is \$245,000, according to Koster. A recent survey of members of Michigan Chamber of

Commerce Executives lists the average salary of a CEO in the \$20,000-\$50,000 budget range at \$52,398; a high salary of \$75,000; and a low of \$25,000.

President now gets a vote

Another major change in the proposed bylaws would give the president a more active voice on the board, including the right to vote as an ex-officio member on all committees. "The presidents of other local chambers have a vote," Hayes said. "I think it's important to allow them to have an opinion. I think this is crucial. Any president should be an active member in the direction of the organization."

In a phone survey of eight area

chambers of commerce, only one (Milford) allows the chief executive officer to have a vote. The chambers questioned included Brighton, Howell, South Lyon, Milford, Northville, Fenton, Farmington Hills and West Bloomfield.

"The president already has an active voice," said J.R. Attych, who was chairman of the bylaws committee that created the Chamber's original bylaws. At that time, Attych was treasurer of the organization. He is a former board chair and was a 20-year member of the Chamber.

Attych does not think the president should have a vote on Chamber concerns.

continued on next page

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	2006 REVENUE	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	YEARS IN POSITION	CEO VOTES	CEO'S SALARY	CEO'S SALARY CONFIDENTIAL
Brighton	1,650	\$800,000	Pam McConoghy	1	no	\$52,000	no
Howell	910	\$830,000	Pat Conway	3	no	\$78,000	no
Huron Valley	550	\$250,000	Sue Happel	3.5	yes	\$48,500	no
Northville	502	\$400,000	Jody Humphries	1.5	no	\$67,000	no
Novi	493	\$245,000	Nora Champion	6	no (yes if bylaws OK'd)	\$75,000	no (yes if bylaws OK'd)
South Lyon	320	\$203,000	Jeff Fisher	one week	no	\$54,000	no

CURRENT BYLAWS

PROPOSED CHANGES

ARTICLE II PURPOSE

The Novi Chamber of Commerce is organized to achieve the objective of:
 1. Fostering the competitive enterprise system of business by creating a better understanding and appreciation of the importance of business people and a concern for their problems, educating the business community and representing them in city, county, state and national legislative and political affairs; preventing or addressing controversies which are detrimental to expansion and growth of business and the community if they arise; creating a greater appreciation of the value of a more liber-

al investment of substance and self on behalf of the interests of competitive business.
 2. Promoting business and community growth and development by: promoting economic programs designed to stimulate and expand the income potential of all business within the territorial nature which are designed to increase the functional and aesthetic values of the community; and discovering and correcting abuses which prevent the promotion of business expansion and community growth.

The Novi Chamber of Commerce ("Chamber") has been organized in order to achieve the following objectives:
 1. Developing, advancing, and promoting the commercial, retail, industrial, economic, professional, cultural, educational and civic interests of

Novi, Michigan and to provide a forum for matters affecting its members and their respective interests.

2. To promote business and community growth and development.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

There shall be two types of membership in the Novi Chamber of Commerce:
 A. Regular. Any person, association, corporation, partnership, estate, and governmental unit, having an interest in the objectives of the organization, shall be eligible for regular membership. Regular members shall be entitled to one vote per business or other group. Representatives of regular

members shall be designated at the time of application and whenever changes occur.
 B. Honorary. Honorary members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, shall have no voting privileges and are exempt from the payment of dues. Honorary members shall be ineligible to serve as officers and/or directors.

SECTION 1 ELIGIBILITY

Any person, association, corporation, partnership, estate or governmental unit, having an interest in the objectives of the Chamber, shall be eligible for regular membership. In any proceeding in which voting by members is called for, each mem-

ber in good standing shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote. Representatives of regular members shall be designated at the time of application and the Chamber must be notified in writing whenever changes occur.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

A) Any member may resign from the chamber upon written request to the Board of Directors.
 B) Any member who fails to pay the dues within ninety (90) days after written notice shall be terminated. Hardship cases may be considered by the Board of Directors.

C) Any member may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, at a regularly scheduled meeting thereof, for conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to its aims or repute of the chamber after notice and opportunity for a hearing are afforded the member complained against.

SECTION 3 TERMINATION

A. The Chamber shall have the right to reject membership of any applicant deemed contrary to the best interest or purpose of the Chamber.
 B. Any Chamber member who fails to pay the dues within ninety (90) days after transmission of written notice may be terminated.

C. Any chamber member may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Chamber's Board of Directors, at a regularly scheduled meeting thereof for either: (i) conduct unbecoming a member or (ii) conduct prejudicial to the goals or repute of the Chamber.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each person who is or was a director or an officer of this corporation shall be indemnified by the corporation to the fullest extent permitted by the Corporation Laws of the State of Michigan, as they may be in effect from time to time; provided, however, the corporation shall have no obligation to indemnify any director or officer in connection with any proceeding, or part thereof, initiated by such director or officer without authorization of

the Board of Directors. This corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any such person against any liability asserted against or incurred by such persons in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have power to indemnify such person against such liability under the laws of the State of Michigan.

SECTION 2 A (THIS IS A NEW SECTION)

The Board shall prescribe the forms and written procedures for receiving and disbursing all funds

due or entrusted to the Chamber.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Each person who is or was a director or an officer of this corporation shall be indemnified by the corporation to the fullest extent permitted by the Corporation Laws of the State of Michigan, as they may be in effect from time to time; provided, however, the corporation shall have no obligation to indemnify any director or officer in connection with any proceeding, or part thereof, initiated by such director or officer without authorization of

the Board of Directors. This corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any such person against any liability asserted against or incurred by such persons in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have power to indemnify such person against such liability under the laws of the State of Michigan.

SECTION 3 INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

The Chamber shall, to the fullest extent now or hereafter permitted by law and by regulations and rulings issued by the Internal Revenue Service, indemnify any Board member or officer of the chamber (and, to the extent provided in a resolution of Board or by contract, may indemnify any employee or agent of the chamber) who was or is a party to or interested to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed civil action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Board member, officer, employee or agent of the Chamber, or is or was serving at the request of the Chamber as a Board member, officer, partner, trustee, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, whether for profit or not for profit, against expenses (other than taxes, penalties, or expenses of correction) including attorneys' fees (which expenses may be paid by the Chamber in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as provided by law), actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if such person acted (or refrained from acting) in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the chamber and such person is

either successful in his or her defense or the proceeding is terminated by settlement, and such person has not acted willfully and without reasonable cause with respect to the Chamber duties concerned, the chamber may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any such person against any liability (including penalties, taxes, expenses of correction, judgments, settlements or expenses) asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the Chamber would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability under the provisions of this Article.

(b) Rights to Continue: The indemnification herein provided for shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a Board member or officer of the chamber and, to the extent provided in a resolution of the Executive Board or in any contract between the Chamber and such person, may continue as to a person who has ceased to be an employee or agent of the Chamber. Any indemnification of a person who was entitled to indemnification after such person ceased to be a Board member, officer, employee or agent of the chamber shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, personal representatives and administrators of such person.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall employ a President and shall fix the salary and other considerations of

employment.

SECTION 5 MANAGEMENT

The Executive Committee (as hereinafter defined) shall employ a President and upon the recommendation of the Chamber's treasurer shall fix the President's annual salary and other considerations of the President's employment and shall

confidentially memorialize all such conditions of the President's employment in a confidential written document that shall be placed into the President's employee file.

ARTICLE V ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the regular June Board meeting, the chairman of the board shall appoint, subject to approval by the approval of the board of Directors, a nominating committee composed of three (3) members of the chamber, one of which shall be the Chairman-Elect. The Chairman of the board shall designate the Chairman of the committee. This committee shall present to the Chairman of the Board in July a slate of candidates. Each candidate shall be an active member in Novi in good standing for at least ninety (90) days for Director and one year for an officer, and shall agree to accept the responsi-

bilities of the office to which nominated. Upon receipt of the report of the Nominating Committee, the Chairman of the board shall notify the membership by mail at least two weeks prior to the general membership annual meeting in September, the names of persons nominated. Additional candidates may be nominated by the general membership at the regular August membership meeting provided that such candidates meet the eligibility requirements as stated in this section. No member may be a candidate for more than one office per ballot.

SECTION 1 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the regular June Board meeting, the chair of the board shall appoint, subject to majority approval by the board, a nominating committee composed of the President of the chamber and four (4) members of the chamber, one of which shall be the Chair-Elect. The Chair of the Board shall designate the Chair of the Nominating Committee. This Nominating Committee shall present to the Chair of the Board not later than October 31 a slate of candidates. The candidates shall be an active member in good standing for at least one year for Director and one year for an officer and shall agree to accept the responsibilities of the office to which was nominated. Upon receipt of the report of the Nominating

Committee, the chair of the board shall notify the membership by mail or email at least two weeks prior to the November Chamber meeting and transmit the names of those persons nominated. Additional candidates may be nominated by a member in good standing prior to the November meeting provided that such candidates meet the eligibility requirements as stated in this section. No member may be a candidate for more than one office per ballot. Elected officers shall assume office on January 1 of the following year. The Board shall establish a written screening policy in order to ensure a balance of business interests as candidates.

Novi Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Chair:
 Peggy Hayes
 Twinkle Oaks Mall
 (248) 348-9438

Chair Elect:
 Art Johnson
 Johnson's Printing Services
 (248) 735-7800

Vice Chair:
 Joe Sutschek
 Ramco-Garshenson, Inc.
 (248) 592-6230

Treasurer:
 Jim Koster
 Novi Community Schools
 (248) 449-1200

Past Chair:
 Keith Wilson
 Bob Saffers Pontiac-GMC
 (248) 476-8000

Directors:
 Karen Anderson
 Smart Office Systems
 (248) 324-3310

Eddie Bourque
 Luckys
 (248) 374-3420

Kathleen Beagan-Miller
 CORT Furniture-Relocation Central
 (248) 852-8515

Greg Carr
 Avenir Accounting
 (248) 348-3348

Gregory Chapman
 The Sierra Group at Smith Barney
 (616) 771-8000

Anita Delicelli
 Cityscapes Architects
 (248) 471-7877

Fréd Moschella
 Fox Run Village
 (248) 328-9200

Catherine Buzzy
 Dinsars Greenhousess, Inc.
 (616) 771-8000

Christy L. Skaberg
 Republic Bank
 (248) 735-0775

Cal Stone
 Novi News
 (248) 349-1700

Robert Thome
 Pelland Novi
 (248) 449-7340

Patrice Zapp
 Office Express
 (877) 795-6000

Proposed changes took several years

continued from page 10

"The board is the policy-making body of the Chamber," he said. "The president is only supposed to administer policies set by the board. The board is supposed to be representing the members, and the president is not a member of the Chamber."

Attych said he dropped his membership a couple of years ago because he did not like the direction the Chamber leadership was taking.

Moving forward

Hayes said none of the Chamber's more than 500 members have called to comment on the proposed bylaws.

"I hope the members realize that we're working in their best interest and that these proposed bylaws have been reviewed by many people."

"I'm hoping that they trust that we're moving the organization in a positive step forward. I'm not anticipating any problems with the passage of the proposed bylaws," Hayes said.

Past chair Keith Wilson, a member of the committee that helped draft the proposal bylaws, said he feels comments about the proposed changes would be more appropriate from a non-commi-

tee member.

Chair elect Art Johnson was not available for comment, and vice chair Joe Sutschek preferred Champion or Hayes comment on the proposal bylaws.

Executive committee member Koster is in favor of the proposed changes.

"It's long overdue, and it's been reviewed, re-reviewed, reviewed and re-reviewed. We have exhausted the reviewing process, and it's time to pass it," he said.

Past revision attempt

Several years ago, the current bylaws were thoroughly reviewed by a committee comprised of the late Doug Shaeffer, board members who are attorneys and business people like seven-year, former board member Gina Kozlowski.

"We pulled together bylaws from the local area and chose the three strongest chambers," Kozlowski said. "We wanted to pollist our bylaws so that they would be comparable to theirs."

The committee met once a week for over a year, according to Kozlowski.

Shaeffer, who was Novi's chief of police at the time, did most of the work on the original bylaws, according to Kozlowski.

But the revisions that bylaws committee created were never implemented.

Champion said the new bylaws committee was initiated because the Chamber's legal counsel

Attend and vote

Members of the Novi Chamber of Commerce who want to vote on the proposed bylaws changes must attend the luncheon.

WHERE: Fox Run Village
 41000 13 Mile Road, Novi
DATE: Tuesday, April 11
TIME: registration at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon

COST: \$20
RESERVATIONS: must be made in advance, call the Chamber at (248) 349-3743

PROGRAM: special guest speaker from Morley Carol makers

thought that the bylaws needed to be updated to protect the Chamber and its members. Hayes said that committee includes former board chairs Lou Martin and Wilson; now-board member Frank Hickey; and chamber attorney Kevin O'Malley of Varum, Ridinger, Schmitt & Howlett LLP's Lansing office.

"Our legal counsel researched between 50 to 100 chambers," Champion said. "The chamber is a business organization, and it was recommended that we run the Chamber like a business."

Room Reservations can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at planning@gamnet.com

CURRENT BYLAWS

PROPOSED CHANGES

ARTICLE V ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECTION 3 TERM OF OFFICE

Directors of the Board of Directors shall be elected to a two-year term of office. Terms of office shall be staggered. Officers shall be elected for a one (1) year term of office. A person serving

on the board of Directors may not serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms in the same position.

Directors of the Board shall be elected to a two-year term of office. Terms of office shall be staggered. Officers shall be elected for a one (1) year term of office, not to exceed four (4) consecutive terms. A person serving on the Board may not serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms, except pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth below. Retiring members of the Board shall

not be eligible for re-election to the board for a period of two consecutive calendar years following their retirement, and only on the condition that such Board member can conclusively demonstrate that she has consistently been active in Chamber activities during that period. In addition, any additional term is limited to one (1) third and final term.

ARTICLE V ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECTION 4 ELECTIONS

Officers and directors shall be elected at the September business meeting, and shall assume office on January 1st, at which time the terms of

office of the previous officers and directors shall cease and terminate.

Officers and directors shall be elected at the November business meeting, and shall assume office on January 1st of the following year, at

which time the terms of office of the chamber's prior officers and directors shall cease and terminate.

ARTICLE V ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS SECTION 5 VACANCIES

In the event that any officer or director, either appointed or elected, shall fail or neglect to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the board of Directors without permission or excuse for such absence, the office of that member may be declared vacant and may be filled as otherwise

provided in these articles. Vacancies on the Board of Directors, or among the officers, shall be filled by the Board of Directors by a majority vote and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and installed.

In the event that any officer or director, either appointed or elected, shall fail or neglect to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the board without permission or excuse for such absence, the office of that member will be declared vacant and

will be filled as otherwise provided in these articles. Vacancies on the Board, or among the officers, shall be filled by the board with a majority vote and shall serve until their successors are duly elected and installed.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS SECTION 2 DUTIES D. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee as well as a member of the Program of Work Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the safeguarding of all funds received by the chamber and for their proper disbursement. Such funds shall be kept on deposit in

financial institutions, or invested in a manner approved by the Board of Directors. Checks are to be signed by the Treasurer and the President, or in the absence of either or both, by any two officers. The Treasurer shall cause a monthly financial report to be made to the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer shall be Chair of the budget & Finance Committee as well as a member of the Program of Work Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the safeguarding of all funds received by the Chamber and for their proper disbursement. Such funds shall be kept on deposit in financial institutions, or invested in a manner

approved by the board. Checks over \$500 are to be signed by the Treasurer and the President, or, in the absence of either or both, by any two officers. The Treasurer shall cause a monthly financial report to be made to the Board.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS SECTION 2 DUTIES E. PRESIDENT

The President shall be the chief administrator. The President shall serve as secretary to the Board of Directors, and cause to be prepared notices, agendas and minutes of meetings of the board. The President shall serve as advisor to the Chairman of the board and Committee Chairmen, and shall assemble information and data and cause to be prepared special reports as directed by the board of Directors. The President shall be an ex-officio member without vote of the board of Directors, the Executive Committee and all committees. With assistance of the committee chairmen, the President shall be responsible for administration of the Program of Work in accordance

with the policies and regulations of the board of Directors. The President shall be responsible for hiring, directing and supervising all employees. The President shall be responsible for discharging of all employees subject to the approval for the board of Directors. At the direction of the budget & Finance Committee or Treasurer, and the Chairman for the board, the President shall be responsible for the preparation of the operating budget covering all activities of the chamber, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The President shall also be responsible for all expenditures with approved budget allocation.

The president shall be the Chamber's chief administrator. The president shall serve as advisor to the Chair of the board and Committee Chair and shall assemble information and data and cause to be prepared special reports as directed by the Board. The president shall be a voting member of the Board, the Executive Committee and all other Chamber committees. With assistance of the Executive Committee, the President shall be responsible for administration of the chamber's Annual Planning Meeting in accordance with the policies and regulations of the board. The president

shall be responsible for hiring, directing and supervising all employees. The President shall be responsible for discharging employees and shall subsequently inform the Board. At the direction of the Chamber's budget & Finance Committee or Treasurer, and the Chair of the board, the President shall be responsible for the preparation of the operating budget covering all activities of the Chamber, subject to the approval of the Board. The President shall also be responsible for all expenditures with approved budget allocation.

ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES SECTION 4 DIVISIONS

The Board of Directors may create such divisions, bureaus, departments, councils, or subsidiary corporations, as it deems advisable to handle the work of the chamber. The Board shall authorize and define the powers and duties of all divisions, bureaus, departments, councils, and subsidiary corporations. The Board shall annually review and approve all activities

and proposed programs of such divisions, bureaus, departments, councils, subsidiary corporations, including collection and disbursement of funds. No action or resolution of any kind shall be taken by divisions, bureaus, departments, councils, or subsidiary corporations having bearing upon or expressive of the chamber, unless approved by the Board of Directors

Section eliminated

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS SECTION 1 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the corporation, in compliance with State law, shall be held during September of each year. The time and place shall

be fixed by the Board of Directors and notice thereof mailed to each member at least ten (10) days before said meeting.

The annual meeting of the corporation, in compliance with State law, shall be held in January or February of each year. The time and place shall

be fixed by the board and notice thereof mailed to each member at least ten (10) days before said meeting.

ARTICLE IX FINANCES SECTION 1 FUNDS

All money paid to the Chamber shall be placed in a general operating fund. Funds unused from

the current year's budget will be placed in a reserve account.

All money paid to the Chamber shall be placed in a general operating fund.

ARTICLE IX FINANCES SECTION 2 DISBURSEMENTS

All funds of the Chamber of Commerce shall be discharged by checks signed by two (2) authorized individuals. The President is authorized to make

disbursements on accounts and expenses as provided for in the budget, or by special authorization of the board of Directors.

Upon approval of the budget, the President is authorized to make disbursements on accounts and

expenses provided for in the budget without additional approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX FINANCES SECTION 4 BUDGET

As soon as possible after the election of the new Board of Directors and officers, the Executive Committee and officers-elect, shall adopt the

budget for the coming year and submit it to the Board of Directors for approval at the November Board of Directors meeting.

As soon as possible after the election of the new Board and officers, the Executive Committee and officers-elect, shall adopt the budget for the com-

ing year and submit it to the Board for approval at the January Board meeting.

ARTICLE IX FINANCES SECTION 5 ANNUAL AUDIT

The accounts of the Chamber of Commerce shall be audited annually at the close of business on December 31 by a public accountant. The

audit shall at all times be available to member of the organization with the offices of the Chamber.

The Board may appoint a member who is a certified public accountant, not an officer, to serve as an Auditor to review financial and banking records

to determine any irregularities or discrepancies that would indicate further investigation is required.

ON CAMPUS

Kristen Kern of Novi was named to the dean's list for first semester 2005-06 at Miami University.
 Lindsay Blaszczak of Novi was named to the dean's list for fall 2005 semester at Loyola University, Chicago.
 Novi resident Dawn Wibling served an internship at Meadowbrook Theater, Rochester, during 2006 winter term. She is a sophomore at Denison University.
 Novi resident Jennifer Rowe is a recipient of the William F. Lindley Blaszczak of Novi recognizes the top 5 percent of freshman students for superior academic achievement. Jennifer was a 2005 Novi High School graduate and is currently a University of Michigan-Dearborn student. She was also named to the fall 2005 semester dean's list.
 Jason Smith of Novi was a competitor in the First Midwest Regional Cyber Defense Competition held at the University of Illinois. He is a student at the Baker College of Ill.
 Novi residents Eliza Balon, Alicia Boulet, Valerie Cherauzave, Joseph Chudis, Amanda Church, Lara Clayton, Jill Connolly, Eve Costlow, Novi, Alison Davies, Melissa Doolin, Amanda Faughnan, Jeremy Herndon, Novi, Kristin Ingram, Christine M. Jewell, Michael Kallio, Harry Kalopoulos, Nadian Keller, Bryan Kneibgen, Kristin Kojlarok, Jane Maher, Matthew Mooney, Ronald Nicklaus, Sarah Oherlin, Christian Orlando, Donald Pitts, Celen Shao, Michael Spitzes, Lisa Szumlinski, Christine Wall, Panagioti Walestercraft and Amanda Yunker were named to the winter 2005 dean's list at Eastern Michigan University.
 Walked Lake residents Dawn Befrey, Matthew McInelis, Kristen Metevia and Andrew Page were named to the winter 2005 dean's list at Eastern Michigan University.
 Wixom residents Jeffrey Blonik, Leslie Crandall, Lisa Evans, Vylan Heinrich, Aimee Ivey, Amanda Madden, Michele Moore, Eluske Norris and Christy L. Rozmus were named to the winter 2005 dean's list at Eastern Michigan University.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Fuerst Scholarship

Residents of the Novi Community School district who are attending post high school education in an undergraduate program at an accredited community college, college, university, technical or vocational school, may be eligible for a Fuerst Scholarship.
 The Fuerst scholarship is based primarily on financial need and is administered through the Novi Educational Foundation. Up to \$20,000 in scholarship funds are awarded annually to qualified applicants. Application forms are available from the Novi High School Counseling Office, the Educational Services Building on Tall Road, or by calling (248) 449-1260. The deadline for applications is tomorrow.

Novi High robotics team wins Western Michigan Regional Championship; 2006 Chairman's Award

■ Frog Force comes from behind to win

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer Harvey used the word "stokohiveness" to describe this year's Novi High Frog Force 503 robotics team.
 She was referring to the team's dramatic come-from-behind victory in Grand Rapids last weekend. Novi ended up winning the Western Michigan Regional Championship and the 2006 Chairman's Award after being ranked 44 out of 47 teams early on.
 "We've won a world championship. We've won an imagery award. We've won the Engineering Inspiration Award. We've won the Motorola Quality Award. We've won so many awards, but we've never won an actual regional. And we finally did," said Harvey, founder of the team.
 Harvey said the team wasn't about to give up after being down, because the students knew the only obstacles to overcome were

mechanical, which could be easily fixed.
 "They never gave up," said Harvey. "It was never an issue of we're not good, or we've done poorly, it was an issue of how can we fix it and how can we do better? The kids really rose to the occasion by using all their resources, talking to mentors, consulting with a few other experts that were here that day, and they fixed it."
 Mentor Frank Mialli was particularly proud of the students. "They did a terrific job," he said. "It's an excellent program to get the kids interested in science and technology."

Winning the highest honor

For the Chairman's Award, three students had to submit a 10,000 character essay. The award goes to the team that exemplifies the spirit FRUG, which is spreading the word of science and technology the best.
 Harvey said everything the team has done in the last six years created a history which enabled Novi to win it.
 "The Chairman's Award was very special to me," said junior Christopher Jodoin. "I was directly involved in presenting the

award to the judges and that was really something I was proud of." Jodoin said the main goal of the team is to win the Chairman's Award at the national level.
 "It is the highest award to get," said Jodoin. "Last year we won the world championship. That is great, but we can still do better than that."
 Junior Brianny Riley personally ranked winning the Chairman's Award over last year's world championship because of her personal involvement.
 "To win the Chairman's is the most amazing feeling because it's the validation of all your hard work for six weeks and your life basically," she said. "It's amazing to get that feeling of accomplishing something big. I spent time writing

it and presenting it, so it was closer to me than the actual robot, since I don't actually work on the robot at all!"
 Harvey couldn't stop raving about the team's successes. "Every year I'm more and more amazed," she said. "I think every year I'm getting better at it and my ability to problem solve has been honed, and it's wonderful that they're applying what they learned to their daily lives now. That's the whole reason behind it."
 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.

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NOVI MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL - FOURTH MARKING PERIOD

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Garon, Jordan Gales, Gabrielle Gasurud, Kiriana Ghandokota, Shyan Ghoshgheh, Brett Glampa, Brandon Gillespie, Abigail Glenn, Gabriel Glenn, Zachary Goodman, Harsha Guler, Kapil Dev Gowda, Neelima Goyal, Bradley Grabow, Steven Gray, Savannah Green, Nicole Greenblatt, Andrea Grewell, Kathleen Griffin, Andie Haga, Brittany Hamilton, Kevin Hu, Melissa Hulverson, Chase Huston, Erik Ishizaki, Alvin Jang, Allison Jensen, Daniel Jiang, Peter Jang, Mengmeng Jia, Holly Johnson, Allison Jones, Simon Juncal, Brittany Judds, Paige Juswaki, Kevin Kacan, Christyana Kanitker, Julie Kagan, Christyana Kanitker, Tina Katopodis, Haley Kehus, Alyssa Kelly, Farah Khan, Sanyika Khare, Kimia Khatib-Shandili, Joon Kim, Spencer Kim, Michael Kirsh, Naomi Kiura, Maonaga Kodai, Colleen Kolls, Leona Komatsu, Chelsy Korts, Shanika Korpik, Samantha Kovarik, Courtney Karrer, Muthi Krik, Richard Kwang, Erin Kwekedis, Eric Lausack, Jibray Ledesma, Andrew Lee, Nina Lehman, Joseph Leppeck, Matthew Lewis, Luke Limpert, Kelsey Linberg, Nicholas Littleton, Kristu Liu, Casey Leselle, Shuang Loty, Stephanie Low, Andrew Lu, Samantha Macy, Mariana Madrigal, Michael Magliocco, Keely Mane, Aaron Martinez, Nelski Mane, Sarah Masson, Emaline Maxwell, Danielle Mizer, Colleen McClure, Lauren McEachern, Avery McIntyre, Rebecca McKelvey, Rebecca McKinley, Brooke McMahon, Keenan McLanern, Devin Meadors, Michelle Medved, Steven Medved, Sahil Mehta, Alan-Michael Mencer, Joseph Mikkelson, Alyssa Miller, Alyssa

Muller, Katherine Mullins, Christopher Muncie, Garrett Murphy, Katherine Murphy, Kevin Murphy, Alyssa Murray, Justin Mustonen, Bridgett Myers, Ren Nagasaka, Carolyn Nagle, Anum Nasseem, Lauren Nease, Joshua Newirth, Jasmin Nichols, Melody Nichols, Messar Nogami, Marissa Nussio, Devin O'Donnell, Ryobel Oniya, Richard Orban, Samer Oteir, Sandeep Palepu, Samuel Palmer, Shashank Pandharpal, Lauren Parent, Rachel Park, Emily Patterson, Thomas Pawlinski, Samantha Parelli, Michael Pesandorfer, Mason Pew, Madeline Plimister, David Planis, Stephan Pletske, Kevin Powell, Kimberly Powers, Brittany Puente, Michelle Quenton, Garrett Razooli, Jay Raina, Anvesha Roy, Zachary Reilly, Michelle Rich, Gregory Richard, Rebecca Richler, Aidan Rickel, Eric Ridemour, Morgan Ringel, Constance Robbins, Jonathan Robinson, Maaghan Robinson, Justin Rush, Madhu Saran, Erin Sawaya, Jessica Scarfitt, Hannah Schmidt, Timothy Scholl, Joseph Scholinger, Andrew Schultz, Nazlie Schultz, Emily Sorinza, Ryo Sotoyama, Katrina Sitch, Rabita Shamsfar, Marcella Sharma, Patrick Shekton, Andrew Shih, Todd Shmoyda, John Shoop, Shaibaig Sidhu, Madeline Singh, Kaitlynn Smak, Michael Smalling, Samantha Smith, Wallace Smith, Allison Smitz, Jenna Snyder, David Sparding, Amy Spitz, Tanaya Srinivasakrishnan, Scott Stanford, Rachel Stout, Steve Stavropoulos, Marie Steenbeck, Laura Switlock, Sarah Sutton, Brahadeshwar Sundararaj, Nikhila Suraganeni, Kelsy Sufika, Maly Sufika, Brett Szalner, Colin Talbot, Nirguna Thakla, Matthew Timmin, Krista Tics, Victoria Tomkinson, Paige Tresler, Andrew Valade, Christopher Valade, Danielle Valade, Katharine Valerand,

Christopher Vera-Burgos, Travis Vincent, Eric Wahlman, Sarah Waldrop, Maria Watson, Michael Wear, Austin Wertheimer, Brittany Whitaker, Whitney Wick, Sarah Wicker, Erica Wilkins, Nicole Wilkins, Bailey Wilson, Meredith Withar, Paul Wlonski, Mitchell Wong, Angia Xie, Belisi Yang, Andy Ye, Jang Ho Yeon

Eighth Grade

Takani Abi, Luisa Adame-Elias, Dana Alana, Britney Allibor, Jaime Alvarez, Matthew Ak, Katherine Appolunan, Carla Aschner, Aditi Arora, Lielte Baeza, Emily Bank, Paul Baratta, Josh Barman, Rick Barman, Timothy Barrett, Kathleen Barry, Jonathan Bauer, Bradley Baxter, Laura Bayley, Alex Bednarek, Kristi Belanger, Timothy Belle, Erika Belloni, Curtis Berenguer, Stephanie Boren, Alexandra Borge, Sarah Berman, Anagha Bhadrachal, Michael Blaszczyk, Kristin Blooms, Christopher Bloem, Stephanie Bolieu, Amanda Borden, Garrett Born, Ashley Bowme, Matthew Brian, Ellen Brinza, Ross Buckley, Jami Brgol, Luan Cady, Hazel Camit, Dylan Capello, Seraphine Carlson, Alyssa Carr, Kevin Carrell, Daniel Chang, Xiao Chang, Kongtao Chen, Mimi Chen, Jamie Chih, Jennifer Cha, Andrew Cimolachi, Nicholas Collesco, Laura Cossaboom, Meredith Cole, Carson Grandell, Jamie Crist, William Cusick, Hannah Destmalick, Michael DeLisle, Austin Denoyer, Renee Denyer, Mark DePetter, Renee DeVivo, Benjamin Diaz, Kyle Diehlus, Evan Dixie, Emily Durrick, Maria Doff, Eric Engelbreton, Jennifer Engelmann, Elizabeth Engelsen, Richard Enright, Ashleigh Evans, Jonathan Fields, Maria Foley,

Natalie Folino, Isabella Fryatt, Roxa Fu, Ashley Garcia, Vincent Gasparillo, Paul Gernany, Jeffrey Giese, Thomas Goers, Christopher Gray, Swendolon Greer, Stephani Grunski, James Grunack, Kenneth Hanson, Timothy Harland, Kimberly Hartimus, Alyssa Hayes, Alexandra Heppel, Byres Herbel, Ashley Hoag, Emily Hoan, Dakota Hoffmann, Jessie Hong, Laryun Hong, Allison Hooman, Taylor Hoover, Justin Hogston, Carol Howell, Alyson Hui, Stephanie Hui, Kiko Ji, Peter Joo, Anne Irwin, Talisa Israh, Irene Israh, Anup Jadhav, Yunho Jeong, Caroline Johnson, Myler Johnson, Ryan Joo, Tyler Jones, Matthew Kaindl, Allan Kambe, Mmori Kambe, Jillian Kaminski, Masumi Kanada, Michael Kepes, John Kern, Noor Keslou, Kristen Kiger, Yongtae Kim, Lauren Kinnaman, Alyssa Kobayrak, Carey Kolls, Timothy Kolls, Rachel Kopyczynski, Kyle Korona, Jackson Lawry, Krista Larkin, Alec Lavin, Courtney Laux, James Le, Andrew Lee, John Lee, Katlyn Leone, Sarah Less, Sarah Lelson, Jessica Levy, Marisa Lewandowski, Syyo Li, Evan Lian, Jacqueline Liu, Shuo-Huang, Andrea Lollo, Kelsey Love, Christina Looney, Trinity Louis, John Lu, Kara Ludke, Andrew Lumley, Emily Ma, Glenn Malter, Christina Mancini, Tyler Manning, Kelsey Massarant, Deanna Matthews, Richard McCarthy, Caitlin McEachern, Megan McEachern, Kyle McEbara, Brooke McKnight, Christine Meek, Sanjama Mehta, Kylie Meyer, Elizabeth Miller, Courtney Milon, Jeremy Mims, Alexander Minghine, Katelyn Moon, Alexander Motil, Michael Morrison, Andrew Morton, Jonathan Muncie, Yuka

Hagshims, Jonani Naidu, Konasa Nagauma, Hiba Nazam, Yumho Niu, Jacquelyn Nunn, Austin Oberlin, Chad Odell, Joe Ortiz, Eric Pablan, Allison Paclouli, Odiseas Papayiotou, Brian Park, Juliana Parks, Amanda Pastoor, David Parent, Trevor Patterson, Mitchell Patton, Lindsey Peterson, Tyler Peirlich, Andrew Philia, Brennie Peprzak, Megan Pletray, Emily Polts, Haley Prosser, Madeline Price, Cary Priests, Taylor Pylet, Chelsea Reagen, Stefan Rajkovic, Stephen Rattkovich, Anirudh Ravi, Nicholas Rechia, Aswin Reddy, Nicholas Regnier, Mary Reid, Danielle Reynolds, Hannah Rolle, Marie Ross, Michael Rymak, Kalle Stafford, Ardan Salam, Kalle Samalson, Kristan Sarcotum, Eric Santore, Jessica Sarant, Macaria Schmitt, Alison Scholl, Krista Sechirst, Kaitlyn Shear, Eric Sherwood, Alexander Shi, Mengha Shyam Y.N., Kyle Simpson, Marta Sosa, Andrea Smak, Chelsea Snyder, Sierra Solomon, Ivona Sopic, Sarah Sorensen, Namun Srivastava, Timothy Starr, Regina Stokler, Nina Stockman, Ming Suzuki, Victoria Sydney, Ashley Suzukotowski, Kosuke Tada, Sedik Taha, Debnita Talapatra, Meredith Tarrant, Malena Thiparatit, Julia Thomas, Blake Tschman, Carly Turck, Alexa Ubeoda, Lauren Vane, Benjamin Van Zee, Vishnu Venugopal, Heeta Herman, Matthew Voldfort, Marina Vulaji, Mark Wagner, Matthew Waldrop, Daniel Weil, Zhao Wang, Yui Washio, Theodore Weingerter, Michelle Whedder, Zachary Wilkonson, Connor Wilson, Daniel Wu, Kaori Yonemura, Christopher Yoo, Kevin Zak, Fuyun Zhang, Peter Zhang, Mark Zheng, Julianna Zuccato

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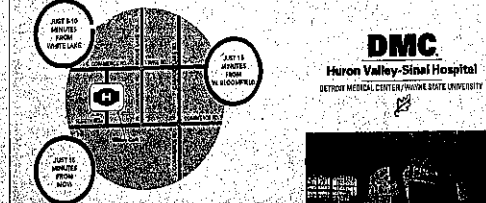


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War: What is it good for?

Novi veterans speak out on the war in Iraq

By Tracy Mishler
RECORD STAFF WRITER

Bill Collett remembers standing on his assigned battleship waiting for the blast of the atomic bomb.

The 82-year-old Novi resident served six years in the United States Navy and remembers being in the thick of things during World War II.

"I went in the service in March 1941 and war wasn't declared until December," Collett said. "It was a good experience ... I did it for my country."

Collett said after the war ended in 1945, he served about eight months on an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific, working to improve the atomic bomb.

"We were about 20 miles away from the target ship, the Arkansas battleship," he said. "Our goal: to see the effects of the bomb on ships."

It's been three years since the war in Iraq began.

Collett is among several war veterans battling with one question: When will it end?

"I don't think we should have ever gone over there," he said. "We're stuck there now."

Experienced vets

Mel Druding said he is opposed to the war and wonders when President George W. Bush will end the fighting.

"There has to be a way to stop these terrorists," said the 90-year-old Meadowbrook Commons resident. "If the government is not going to stop it,

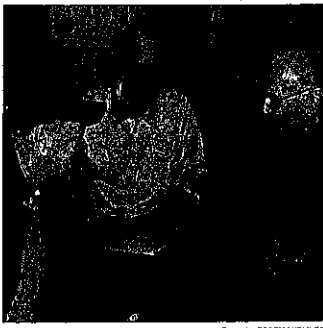


Photo by TRACY MISHLER

Veterans of past wars, Phil Sumner (left), Mel Druding (center) and Bill Collett discuss their battlefield experiences and the current war in Iraq.

who will?"

Like Collett, Druding also served in the Navy during World War II.

"I was there during D-Day," Druding said. "We were shipped to Omaha Beach and arrived June 6, 1944: the invasion of Normandy."

Druding said he served as a copman during the war.

"I thought God's got to be with me," he said. "I'm either going to make it or not. There are no guarantees you're going to make it out alive."

Phil Sumner said even though he didn't serve in a war, he did his time.

Drafted in 1954, post Korean War, Sumner, 71, said people nowadays aren't as patriotic as they were during past wars.

Both Sumner and Druding

agreed that their experiences during the 1940s-50s were different than that of war today.

"I joined because I had no choice," Druding said.

"Some may go into the service to further their education," Collett said. "And then there are dedicated people who know the dangers and are doing it for their country."

Sumner said the only thing people can do is hope government officials are doing the right thing. "We must support our troops whether we feel they should be there or not," Sumner said. "War is scary. But what is the alternative?"

Tracy Mishler is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107, or at tmishler@gannett.com.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 4/7

9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Dupl. Bridge
1:30 p.m. Bingo
2-2:30 p.m. Massage

Monday 4/10

9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Pinochle*
2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment
6:30 p.m. Jogging*

Tuesday 4/11

8:30 a.m. Panca Bread
9 a.m. Line Dance*
10 a.m. Asian Pacific
11 a.m. Diabetes, Sharon Tomaszewski, Health Nurse
noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Focus Hope Distribution
12:45 p.m. Bingo
1-3 p.m. Ask The Lawyer, by appointment

2-2:30 p.m. Massage by appointment

Wednesday 4/12

9 a.m. Stretch and Strength
10 a.m. Body Recall
10:30 a.m. Quilting
11 a.m. Blood Pressure
11 a.m. Talking Oil/Petroleum Sensibility class
11:30 p.m. Jogging*
noon Lunch
1:30-2:30 p.m. Sing-A-Long with George and Caroline
2-4 p.m. Massage by appointment
4-6 p.m. Hillside Middle School Pym

Thursday 4/13

9 a.m. Line Dance*
9 a.m. Medicare Part D Assistance by appointment
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Income Taxes by appointment
noon Lunch
12:15 Chinese Bridge*
1-2 p.m. Line Dance
1:30-3 p.m. Book Discussion "The Art of Happiness"
2-2:30 p.m. Massage
*Activities will be held at the Novi Civic Center, 43175 W. 10 Mile Road. Phone (248) 347-0414.

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Our fundamental purpose is 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

Novi Chamber proposed bylaws: Two red flags

The Novi Chamber of Commerce will be asking its membership to approve changes to the organization's bylaws at a luncheon Tuesday, and we would ask those voting take a hard look at the proposed changes.

A quick summary of the changes can be found on our front page; the exact language is on page 10.

There are at least two changes we strongly question.

First, making this president a voting member. This is not standard practice for this type of organization, and it creates an obvious conflict of interest. Members elect a board of directors, and that board hires a president to run day-to-day operations of the chamber. It's as simple as that. Giving the president voting privileges on the executive committee, which determines the president's salary, raises concern as well.

Second, keeping the president's salary confidential from the general membership and the non-executive committee board members. People who pay to join this organization have a right to know how their dues are being spent, including the CEO's salary. This confidentiality invites unnecessary suspicion. As a nonprofit organization, the Chamber is required to file a 990 form, which should include the president's salary. The information is available: Why try to hide it? We realize the Chamber has been working on these revisions for a number of years, but we don't feel they're in the best interest of the membership as currently proposed.

Note: Cal Stone, editor of the Novi News, is a member of the Novi Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Children of Uganda bring message of hope

I never thought that my heart could be captured by a 6-year-old girl from Uganda.

She was before I met Miriam, a member of the dance company, The Children of Uganda.

I had the rare opportunity to watch her and other members of her troupe perform March 19 at Detroit's historic Shrine of the Black Madonna, a Pan African Orthodox Christian Church.

Although the performance was free, an offering was collected for the children, with all proceeds going to their charity, the Uganda Children's Charity Foundation.

The company also performed at the Power Center in Ann Arbor on March 23 and 24 and will dance at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Allen Theatre in Playhouse Square in Cleveland.

By the end of their five-month, 10th anniversary tour in June, the troupe will have visited 31 cities in 20 states.

An orphan crisis exists in Uganda, with nearly one million children under the age of 15 having lost one or both parents due to HIV or AIDS.

Children of Uganda are in this East African country.

The organization funds two orphanages in Uganda in addition to children with HIV-positive widowed mothers, with more than 700 children in its care.

Originally founded to teach orphaned children of Uganda traditional songs, dances and stories, the Children of Uganda now represent the 1.7 million Ugandan children orphaned by AIDS and war.

The young performers live together in Kampala, Uganda, and combine singing, dancing, music and storytelling representing the cultural traditions of Uganda.

Through its performances and other activities, the 2006 tour hopes to raise \$1.5 million to support orphan care in Uganda as well as increase global awareness of AIDS and its devastating impact on children.

"Children of Uganda presents vibrant and inspiring programs of East African dance and music and offers Americans a compelling opportunity to make a difference in the global AIDS epidemic," said Alexis Hefley, president of the Uganda Children's Charity Foundation.

Hefley, who spoke before the children's performance in downtown Detroit, funded this charity just three years after leaving a lucrative banking career.

"I thought there must be more to this — to life," she said. "So, I started asking God for a passion and a calling."

Through prayer and a week-long religious fast, she decided to move to Washington, D.C., to work with a humanitarian organization. But, it was a U.S. congressman, Tony Hall, from Ohio, and his wife who inspired her to go to Uganda in 1993 as a guest of the First Lady, Janet Bush.

She walked to an orphanage one day run by a Ugandan nun, Sister Rose Mujiza, who founded the Daughters of Christy in Uganda.

"She wasn't your normal nun," Hefley said. "She was more like Whoopi Goldberg. She taught the children singing and dancing, and I thought, 'Wow.'"

Hefley started working at the orphanage and eventually helped organize the first Children of Uganda tour. She now encourages people across the world to help these children whose lives have been adversely affected by HIV and AIDS.

After many years of instability, Uganda is now safe for visitors, according to the Children of Uganda Web site.

"Those who go to Uganda directly with the children in Ugandan orphanages can see some of the most beautiful sites in the world. These include the source of the Nile River, Bujagali Falls, Mbirizi Forest or a safari in one of Uganda's national parks.

Prices fluctuate seasonally and depend on the city of departure, but the cost is about \$3,000 for a two-week trip, including air fare and accommodations. For more information about how to get involved, visit www.childrenofuganda.org.

Correction: In the article on page 8A of the March 23 issue honoring Robert Staines, retired captain of the Novi Police Department, who died March 19, the name of one of his six children, Richard, or Brian, was omitted.

"Rick did a lot for our dad, helping him when he stayed at his house while in town for medical treatments, which sometimes lasted weeks or even months over the last three years," said Richard's younger brother, William, of Plymouth.

Thanks from Isabel's family

On behalf of my entire family, I would like to express my appreciation for the love, sympathy and support we were given upon the passing of my mother, Isabel Collins. It was a comfort to see just how many lives she touched while living in Novi for the past 34 years. We all agree Novi would be the city it is today without my mother.

I also would like to thank the Novi News with their nice article. She would have been so happy to see she made the front page of the paper that she read to cover each week. Furthermore the fantastic job the Sullivan/O'Brien Funeral Home did the interment the ladies at Holy Family parish (twice would have been so pleased). Thank you Father Dudek and the wonderful clergy delivered by Nancy Cassis. It was so greatly appreciated. All of this made a difficult time just a bit easier.

Michael Collins

Haves and have-nots in school system

A recent opinion used the term "Deafification" to refer to the large percentage of the Novi elementary schools. While we all know there are obvious advantages present which push Deafification above the other schools, the suffix "Deaf" usually refers to a student's situation. The elementary schools have been greatly influenced for seven years as we count the incoming 2006/07 year.

Deafification has always offered 100-percent full-time kindergarten, while the board has imposed strict limitations on what the other schools can offer. If a family has taxpayer-paid child care available, the parent who would have stayed home can work a full-time job for a year and earn \$30,000 to \$100,000 of income. This is a big financial advantage for a Deafified family.

Secondly, if all things are equal, a Deafified student will have higher MEAP scores because that student will have spent more time in school than a similar student who attended half-time kindergarten.

When the board made the February decision, they created the big advantage from a salesperson's perspective in a geographical area. Parents are already deciding where to send their kids for the 2006/2007 year based on what the new boundaries will be.

It seems the Novi school board has used the February decision to divide the borders into two classes of people, the haves and have-nots. The haves get more education, higher test scores, and a greater opportunity to earn personal income. The have-nots seem happy to say their parental involvement is just a good as Deafified.

We have a very confident and politically experienced school board that they can use public money for such obvious favoritism. It is inspiring how they have manipulated the population to support them while committing such acts. Certainly, we all realize that with geographical-based resources, even though it is needed to keep the use of those resources equal.

In poorer, less developed countries, the government usually puts a fence to separate the haves from the have-nots. In Novi, we have neighborhood school boundaries that do the same thing.

Dr. Armand Catalano

Novi

If you repeat a lie often enough...

Even if you repeat lies often it still does not make them true. President George W. Bush has done nothing illegal in his Presidency.

Apparently facts seem to just get in the way of Mr. Donigan's opinion. I have seen so many editors by Ms. Donigan over the recent months that I thought she was a guest columnist for the Novi News.

After the embarrassment of the previous Chicago Administration President George W. Bush is a welcome change. You may not agree with his actions but at least he is willing to take a stand for his beliefs rather than rely on pollsters.

I believe the Majority of people trust and respect this administration even if they have differing views than the President. The November elections will bear this out and the Republican Party will gain the majority.

We do have a Democracy in place and the people have spoken twice about George W. Bush. It would benefit Ms. Donigan to try to accept this fact.

Edmund P. Shaheen

Novi

Gun range is a boondoggle

Most intelligent individuals or businesses when receiving a windfall would wisely renege any bids they might have.

Fools and sportsfans throw a party and

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.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Dive in! Elementary Schools' "Dive into Reading" Day last Thursday was a school-wide event where all children dressed in beach attire and spent time reading and enjoying books. Here, second graders dressed up for the spirit day include (l to r, back) Logan Fitzpatrick, Jay Kirsch, Joe Stone, Cole Kwaaniewicz, Ryan Rahnowitz and Michael Orbin; (front) Megan Fox, Nicole Radgens and Koushik Kondapi.

How the money on the frivolous.

A costly gun range with all of its legal and financial ramifications falls into the latter category.

The arguments have been presented and ignored. The will of the "good old boys" who want a new way has prevailed.

If anyone believes that the shooting incident a few years ago at the Ford Wrentham plant would have had different results if Novi had a gun range, they've been watching far too much television.

If there has been any other serious gun play in Novi during the 33 years we have lived here, it escapes my memory.

It smells like a boondoggle to me.

Patric M. Downey

Novi

Tired of typos

I have been a subscriber to the Novi News since I moved into the city in 1987.

Since that time I don't believe there has been a single week where I have not found a typographical or grammatical error within the publication. Although at times frustrated by the lack of professionalism which reflects back to the paper's reputation, I have nonetheless every week forgiven these mistakes as a case of some how simply being overlooked.

The March 30 article about Novi High School's theater production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" told me otherwise. In the story it refers not once, but six times to the actor's rolls (correct word usage, "roles") within the show. That article made it perfectly clear there is obviously no additional editing or proofreading of each writer's work.

As the only publication which represents our city, it is unacceptable there is evidence of a lack of editors or proofreaders to handle such tasks. Beyond that, it would seem anyone who has chosen journalism as their career should know and be able to execute proper spelling and grammar usage in their work.

The time has come for the Novi News to become a more professional paper to better represent our growing community.

Jan Less

Novi

Styrofoam clarifications

We read with interest and disappointment the "Styrofoam facts" included in an article in the Novi News on March 30. Most of these "facts" are fallacies that seriously misinform your readers.

First, "Styrofoam" is a brand name for a type of insulation. The materials in question are formed polystyrene and styrene, the chemical from which it is made. Here are the accurate facts:

• Polystyrene is an effective material for disposal in modern landfills, which generally are not designed to promote decomposition. A "biodegradable" material (e.g. paper, food, etc.) doesn't necessarily completely degrade in a landfill. "Biodegradable" materials often create liquid run-off and methane gas that must be collected to keep from polluting groundwater and air.

Polystyrene manufacturing makes very efficient use of resources to produce a highly beneficial product. The manufacture of all polystyrene products uses only about 0.02 percent of the total amount of petroleum used in the U.S. today.

• Styrene does not accumulate in the body. There is no evidence whatsoever that styrene causes nervous system damage, depression, sleep disorders, Parkinson's disease, weakness, fatigue, loss of concentration, nausea, liver damage or cancer at any levels to which the public are exposed through inhalation or ingestion, including eating food served on polystyrene trays.

• Styrene is not made of maleic acid and/or styrene oxide. Maleic acid is not a mutagen.

The federal government has previously found that having different seasons for girls and boys does not discriminate, and the federal courts will confirm their agreement when the final whistle signals the end of this contest.

John Johnson
Communications Director
Michigan High School Athletic Association

While the human body converts styrene to styrene oxide, which is considered to be a carcinogen, the public is not exposed to levels of any potential concern.

A styrene foam cup would contain a polystyrene deinking cup into hot liquid would be extremely small and well below any level of concern. Moreover, styrene is naturally present in many foods, including coffee, and is approved as a food additive by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

McDonald's never abandoned the use of polystyrene foam products, and still uses it today for many foodservice applications — foam cups, breakfast trays and covers, and other polystyrene foodservice products such as coffee lids, straws, and cups. McDonald's as well as major retail companies worldwide use polystyrene foam (including foam clamshells) for the reasons they were invented: economical, safe, sanitary and convenient packaging — keeps hot foods hot and cold foods cold — and can be recycled.

You and your readers can find out real facts about polystyrene and styrene by visiting www.polystyrene.org and www.styrene.org.

Mike Levy
Executive Director
Polystyrene Packaging Council, Arlington, Va.

Jack Snyder
Executive Director
Styrene Information and Research Center, Arlington, Va.

Sports seasons debate isn't over yet

In sports, especially school sports, there is only one way to play the game to determine its outcome — and that's to its conclusion. What a terrible message we would be sending our young people if we do otherwise.

Playing the game to its ultimate end is true in life, and in litigation. In fact, no less than the ultimate referee in the sports seasons case — the U.S. Supreme Court — has already given the signal to play on.

The alignment of certain high school sports seasons with their collegiate counterparts would run counter to the vast high school sports exist — participation, where Michigan ranks fourth nationally in girls participation, even though our female population of that age group has increased eightfold. In fact, in each of the six sports involved in this litigation, there are actually more girls participating than boys — including basketball. And the lightning rod sport of it all — volleyball — is the most popular sport for girls in this state.

Michigan's schools set up these seasons for a reason — to maximize the quantity and quality of athletic participation for all girls and boys, and that goal is being achieved. The MHSAA's purpose is to vigorously defend the seasons school choice is to preserve what high school student-athletes, parents, coaches, administrators and school board members have determined is best. These people know what other states have discovered after seasons were changed: that participation declines.

There is a lot of time left in the game for schools and a real chance that their cause will ultimately prevail. Michigan schools are right on the facts and the law in this case. To argue that differences in scheduling is discriminatory ignores that the law provides for different teams for girls and boys — as well as different sports, different events and different competition rules.

The federal government has previously found that having different seasons for girls and boys does not discriminate, and the federal courts will confirm their agreement when the final whistle signals the end of this contest.

John Johnson
Communications Director
Michigan High School Athletic Association

COMMENTARY

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

New standards will improve education

Now some good news, for a change: The Michigan Legislature and Gov. Jennifer Granholm have actually cooperated in taking a significant step toward promoting a better educated workforce and a brighter economic future for us all.

Last week, the legislature adopted much tougher high school graduation standards, and the governor promptly signed them into law. This all came with relatively little of the watering-down and endless delaying tactics that were feared and widely expected.

Plenty of people deserve plenty of credit for this one: State Superintendent of Instruction Mike Flanagan, who designed and pushed the new curriculum; Gov. Granholm, who deserves praise for convincing the Cherry Commission two years ago, which called for improving higher education in the state and raising standards for the public school standards to be raised.

Republican-led lawmakers get applause for realizing how important it is that new high school graduates have the education they'll need to compete in the modern world.

Until now, we have only required our graduates to have one semester of civics. But starting with the high school graduating class of 2011, students will need to complete at least three and a half years of civics, four years of English, three years of science and social studies and two years of a foreign language to graduate.

The new high school diploma actually now will be a document demonstrating educational attainment. There is also talk that the legislature may finally take the sensible step and raise the age when students are allowed to legally drop out of school from 16 to 18.

But raising the standards themselves is a terrific accomplishment. It even gives us a sliver of hope that our long-protracted political system may finally be capable of doing something meaningful in the face of our present economic crisis.

Yet amid all the backslapping, here's a note of caution. Talk to most high school graduates about what remains in their heads from the required civics course. You'll find the answer is basically ... nothing. Separation of powers? "What's to separate?"

The Bill of Rights? "I know my rights. I gotta pay a bill for them?" Judicial review? "Sounds like the review session I took to pass civics." Exaggerate, of course, but not much.

And you get the idea. The sorry fact — well, known to any civics teacher and to many anguished parents, not to mention many employers — is that in order to get Little Johnny through the required civics class and on to his high school diploma, the content over the years has been watered down to the point where Ben Franklin would blush.

How did that happen? Easy. When Little Johnny failed civics the first time, his parents went tearing in to the principal's office whining about how tough the course was and how unfair it was to require their little darling to learn the material. When Little Johnny failed the second time, his parents screamed off to the local school board meeting and raised holy hell.

How could they impose such a difficult course on their little darling, who needed desperately to graduate so he could get on to a relatively mindless career in automobile manufacturing?

And if Little Johnny was a minority, charges of racism were thrown in for good measure. What does the education system do when confronted by hordes of angry parents? Cave in, of course. The required civics course was gradually watered down so much that even Little Johnny could be assured of passing.

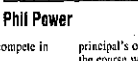
That's the downside of local control of our schools, folks. So beware! Now we have not only

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That's the downside of local control of our schools, folks. So beware! Now we have not only



Phil Power

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

Creating a visitable Novi

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FAITH

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



Children at Rabbi Avrohom Susskind's Purim party make a noise instrument craft.

Purim party modernized

Jewish history played out at Novi rabbi's home

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

About 70 people packed the home of Avrohom and Leah Susskind's home on a recent Monday night to celebrate the Purim Jewish holiday.

But instead of the traditional Purim history lesson, the rabbi and his wife decided to spice up the event and make it more modern for the 21st century.

"We did a newer twist this year to make it more attractive," said Avrohom Susskind. "As the history was being read, there was a slide show playing out the story on a projector while activities 'marking the story'."

A book was also provided of the

history so guests could read along.

Purim is a Jewish holiday that is celebrated every year. It's a time for Jewish families to get together and read the history of the holiday. Historically, Jews gathered on the day at a synagogue or temple, and the rabbi would read as everyone just listened.

"We thought that was kind of boring, so we decided to change it," said Susskind. "We provided festive foods and a joyous atmosphere. Turned out very nicely, and we're very happy we did that. We would definitely do it again."

The Susskinds successfully provided a hands-on evening, where guests could participate in many activities. The idea was to keep the event more lively and focused.

And just so the children didn't get bored, there were crafts and activities set up for them as well. A custom of the Purim holiday is to get dressed up in costumes, and one of the children's crafts was to create masks. Kids decorated white masks which were specially ordered for the event. Some young-

sters even dressed up in costume and received small prizes.

"The kids were very involved and excited about it," said Susskind. "Some of them even ran up and showed me their masks. Some made two: one of a good guy and one of a bad guy."

Guests also had the opportunity to make musical instruments out of wood, which is also another traditional custom of Purim.

"What we hoped the guests received from the party is the ability to express their identity as being Jewish," said Susskind. "In general, during Jewish holidays, that is a common thread, the expression of Jewish identity and for families to get together. And that is the message which is felt at the party."

For more information on the Novi Jewish Center, call (248) 790-6075, or e-mail novjewishcenter@earthlink.net.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for NOV NEWS. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@gannett.com.

CHURCH CALENDAR

• **Meadowbrook Congregational Church** will return to the video series "Questions of Faith" for its 2006 Lenten Program. The video is approximately 30 minutes long, and will be followed by discussion. Each class will meet Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Book Club News: The church's newest selection is "Wicked" by Gregory Maguire. It's a story of the Wicked Witch of the West.

The Semi-Annual Rummage Sale will take place 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday.

• **Mainly Thursday, April 13**, will be celebrated with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by worship and communion at 7:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

The Festival of the Resurrection will be celebrated Easter Sunday, April 16 with two identical worship services at 9 and 11 a.m. There will be no Church School on this day, but the nursery will be available for infants and toddlers during both services.

Meadowbrook is located at 2135 Meadowbrook Road in Novi. The church can be reached at 248-348-7757 or at www.mbcoc.org.

Normal Sunday worship service at 10 a.m.

For further information, ask for the Rev. Dr. E. Neil Hunt, Minister of Meadowbrook.

• **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.

• **Faith Community Presbyterian Church** invites you to worship at either the 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. services. Adult Sunday school is offered at 9 a.m. Sunday school and nursery care is available at both services.

Dr. Henderson will be teaching an Amos and Hosea class on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Cost for the book and class is \$19. Everyone is welcome.

Women's Bible Study, led by Jani Martin, is the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The church is located at 44400 W. 10 Mile Road in Novi. Call (248) 349-2345, or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org.

• **The Holy Family Church** is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Road, between Grand River and 10 Mile Road. Call (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamily-novi.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) 912-0043. The church meets at Novi High School.

• **St. James Catholic Church**

Life Center is hosting a Kids' Health and Safety Fair 12:30-3 p.m. Sunday, April 30.

Activities include pedestrian safety, 911 phone call simulation, sun safety, bike helmet traffic, injury prevention information, poison prevention and much more. Admission is free.

The church is located at 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi. Call (248) 347-7778.

• **First United Methodist Church of Northville** will be hosting a community-wide healing service, called Prayers for Healing of Body, Mind, Relationship and Spirit on the first Monday of each month. This service of hope is open to the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths who desire to ask God for healing in their life, or that of someone they hold dear.

Church worship hour schedules are as follows: 8, 9:15 and 11 a.m. on Sundays. The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road (at Trail Road), Northville. For more information, call (248) 349-1144, or visit www.fo-northville.org.

• **St. John Lutheran Church** will hold Holy Week services: 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, April 13; 7:30 p.m. Good Friday, April 14; Service of Shadows, April 16. Easter Sunday services are: 8:30 a.m. Early Services; 9:50 a.m. Praise Service; 11 a.m. Late Service.

The church is located at 23225 Gill Road in Farmington Hills. Saturday services begin at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday traditional services are at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday contemporary service begins at 9:50 a.m. and Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. Nursery is provided.

Prayer each Friday begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by adult bible study at 10 a.m.

Call (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohn-lutheran.com 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) 423-2700 Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or www.crosspointemeadows.org.

• **St. Paul Lutheran Church** in Northville will be studying the best selling book "Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren during Lent. Over 13,000 churches nationwide have gone through this campaign. St. Paul is hoping to bring this book and study to homes locally. Those who already bought the book and are looking to get more out of it, may sign up for a study group. Books will also be available through the church. Study groups will meet at various homes in Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Plymouth, Canton and Livonia. Most will meet Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. For more information, call (248) 349-3140.

call in advance, (248) 473-0355. People of all faiths are welcome. "The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens." The Baha'i Faith. For more information, visit www.baha.org.

• **St. Paul Concert Series** will host Daniel Foster and Martha Fells Violin and Harpsichord 4 p.m. Sunday, April 30 and The Music of St. Paul's, 4 p.m. Sunday, May 21. The church is located at 201 Elm Street in Northville. Call (248) 349-3140 for more information.

• **The First Presbyterian Church** Thursday evening programs begin at 7:30 with social time followed by the speaker at 8 p.m.

Single Place is also offering a Divorce Recovery Workshop Thursdays through May 11. There will be no workshop on April 13.

Workshop topics include: Networking, Stages of Grief, Facing Your Ex in Focus, Legal Aspects of Divorce, Church & Divorce, Helping Children Through Divorce, Relationships Old and New and a Panel Discussion with people who have gone through the recovery process.

The workshop meets in the Emeritus Room of First Presbyterian Church from 7:30-9:30 Thursday evenings. Child care is available through grade six. Please register for childcare at least two weeks before the Divorce Recovery Workshop begins.

The cost of the workshop is \$35 and includes the book "Growing Through Divorce." Programs vary every week and may include information, inspiration, entertainment or group interaction. On April 20, Janine Krasicky will speak on "How to Make Lemons Out of Lemons When Life Puts up Roadblocks." In just a few years Krasicky survived being laid off twice, a herniated disk, toe stress fractures in her foot and thyroid cancer.

On April 27 there will be two activities. Don Soudstrom will speak on Travel with Elderhostel. Elderhostel is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing extraordinary learning adventures for people 55 and older. The second activity is an open forum offering participants an opportunity to discuss the topic "Why People Remain" with Sandy Baumann as the group leader.

Single Place offers a number of other social activities. Every Saturday a group participates in Walk in the Park at 10 a.m.

We meet at the Visitor Center of Heritage Park on Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile Roads in Farmington Hills.

Single Place of Northville is offering a Divorce Recovery Workshop II, Living Beyond Divorce. Pam Jacobs-Landau is the speaker. The workshop meets on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. May 18 to June 15. Topics covered include honesty, trust, loneliness, depression and self-esteem. The cost of this workshop is \$45. Childcare is available for toddlers through grade six. Register for childcare at least two weeks before the Divorce Recovery Workshop begins.

For more information, or to register, call the First Presbyterian Church at (248) 349-0911, or visit www.single-place.org. The church is located at 200 East Main Street, Northville, MI 48167.

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• **The Baha'i Faith** will host a community-wide devotional gathering focusing on prayers for peace at 11 a.m. on the last Saturday of each month at the home of the Khams, 23003 Ripple Creek Street, Novi. Interested parties are asked to

Compiled by Ramez Khuri



Spring Home & Garden Show

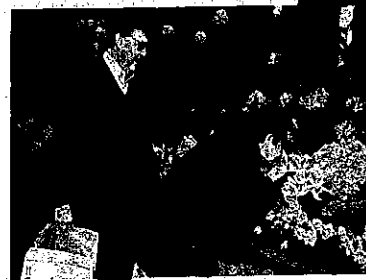
Presented by James Hardie Siding Products
Sponsored by Rock Financial, Little Valley Homes, Kitchen Craft and Dunkin' Donuts
April 7-9, 2006

Rock financial
SHOWPLACE
(on Grand River one mile west of Novi Road) in Novi

Friday, April 7 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday, April 8 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Sunday, April 9 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

ADMISSION: \$7; \$6 (seniors); 12 & under free when accompanied by an adult
Discount Coupons Available online at www.novhideshow.com or at participating Dunkin' Donuts Locations beginning March 20
WEBSITE: www.novhideshow.com or (248) 862-1019

Come On Over and Join the Fun!



FEATURES:



GREEN THUMB THEATER FEATURING THE RENEGADE GARDENER, DON ENGBRETTSON, NANCY LINDLEY, THE ROSE LADY, & OTHER LOCAL EXPERTS

GRILLING BUDDIES, MAD DOG & MERRILL "BARBECUE BONANZA" & STONE CITY DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE SAME STAGE!

LITTLE VALLEY HOMES SPECTACULAR TOUR 3 FULL SIZED HOMES INSIDE OF THE SHOW

OVER 30,000 SQUARE FEET OF GLORIOUS LANDSCAPED GARDENS - THE LARGEST DISPLAY UNDER 1 ROOF

JIMMY'S RUSTICS FURNITURE GIVEAWAY!
Register to win a \$5000 patio furnishings courtesy of Jimmy's Rustics. Sponsored by 100.3 WNIC FM.

ULTIMATE BACKYARD MAKEOVER!
AM 910 Radio Disney, Rock Financial and the BIA Spring Home & Garden Show are giving away \$10,000 in backyard and outdoor goodies!

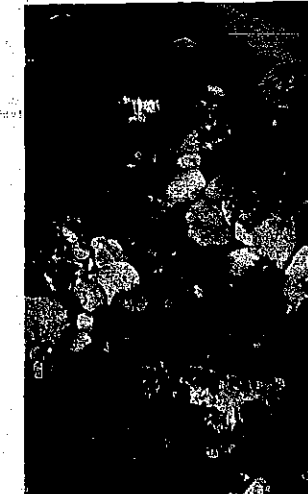
HOME DEPOT CHILDRENS WORKSHOPS
Children can build toolbox kits, bird houses, book ends and more on Saturday & Sunday inside of the AM 910 Radio Disney Display

LIVE SPRING TIME PETTING ZOO

DUNKIN' DONUTS FLAVOR TASTE STATION

RADIO & TELEVISION BROADCASTS & APPEARANCES FROM WJR, MAGIC 105.1, WNIC, WYCD, WDFN & WXYT

*TIMES, TOPICS & FEATURES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



OVER 500 Exhibitors
Over 30,000 sq. ft. of amazing landscaped gardens.



It's here!

Your chances of finding the perfect home just got a whole lot better



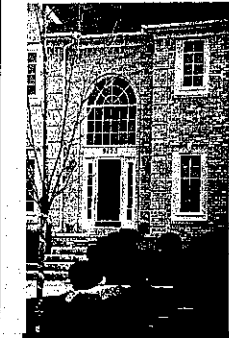
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Find it, then find yourself a wonderful new home.

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is available 24/7 where you can look at more than 26,000 homes! Homes in print and online.

If your looking for a new home, it doesn't get any better than that!



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In this year's Women in the Know coming in May!

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Milford Times 248-685-1507
Livingston County Daily Press & Argus 517-548-7060

CALENDAR

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

EVENTS

Second City Comedy Club

TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday, 8 and 10 p.m. Friday, 7 and 9 p.m. Saturday
 LOCATION: 42795 Grand River Avenue, across from Novi Town Center
 DETAILS: "Bobbie Heals of State" is the theme for this month's shows. Tickets are \$15 on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday and \$20 on Friday and Saturday.
 CONTACT: Visit www.ticketmaster.com or call, (248) 645-6666

Taste of Italy

DATE: Today
 TIME: 6:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Volare Ristorante, 49115 Pontiac Trail, Wixom
 DETAILS: The cost is \$95 per person for the dinner. The evening will also feature entertainment by Mark Realist performing the Sognis di Sintra. Reservations are required.
 CONTACT: (248) 960-7771

Northville Genealogical Society

DATE: Sunday
 TIME: 2:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Library, 212 W. Cady St.
 DETAILS: The Daughters of the Revolution group and how to access their archives will be discussed. The public is welcome.
 CONTACT: Grace Wilfong, (348) 349-9079

Gardeners of Northville and Novi

DATE: Monday
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 4343 W. 10 Mile Road
 DETAILS: The program will be "Art and Architecture in the Garden."
 The public welcome.
 CONTACT: (248) 348-1946 or www.gardenersofnorthville-novi.org

Banders Bookstore and Music Events

LOCATION: 43075 Crescent Boulevard
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0780
Book-Signing
 DATE: Tuesday, April 18
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 DETAILS: Author Cal Ripken Jr. will be signing his book, "Pursuing Young Athletics the Ripken Way: Ensuring the Best Experience for Your Kids in Any Sport."
Book-Signing
 DATE: Saturday, April 22
 TIME: noon
 DETAILS: Author Sarah Deason will be signing her book, "Just Listen, a compelling story of a year in the life of a family coming to terms with the imperfections beneath its perfect facade."

Skating Club of Novi Ice Revue

TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Friday; 1 and 6 p.m. Saturday
 LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42490 Arena Drive
 DETAILS: Admission is \$7 per person; children under 4 are free.
 CONTACT: Skating Director Micki Feirer, (248) 347-1010

Wizard of Oz Dance

DATE: Saturday
 TIME: 1:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Northville High School Auditorium, 45700 Six Mile Road, Northville
 DETAILS: Center Stage Dance Company will perform the ballet, "The Wizard of Oz." Tickets are \$8 per person.
 CONTACT: (248) 380-1666 or email csdc3578@shcjobs.net

Author Presentation

DATE: Tuesday
 TIME: 6:45 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi
 DETAILS: Robert H. Bartlett, MD, will be discussing his first novel, "He is a professor of surgery at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor. This program is presented by the Northville/Novi American Association of University Women (AAUW).
 CONTACT: Beth Ann Knisely (248) 305-8992

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (MPVA) Open House

DATE: Thursday, April 13
 TIME: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 LOCATION: 40550 Grand River Avenue, Novi (248) 476-9000
 DETAILS: This open house will include displays on accessible housing, modified cars and vans, high-tech solutions for daily living with disabilities, veterans benefits information, health and fitness and spinal cord research.
 CONTACT: (248) 476-9000 or visit www.michiganpvpa.org

"Bye Bye Birdie"

DATE: April 27-30
 LOCATION: Brighton Center for Performing Arts, Brighton High School, 7878 Brighton Road, Brighton
 DETAILS: South Lyon High School will be presenting the musical "Bye Bye Birdie." Tickets will be sold in advance and at the door.
 CONTACT: (248) 573-8188

Flower Sale

DATE: Saturday and Sunday, May 6, 13, 14, 20 and 21
 TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
 LOCATION: Oakland Schools Technical Campus "Southwest," 1000 Beck Road, Wixom
 DETAILS: This sale includes annuals and perennials and is sponsored by the Agriscience Greenhouse/Landscape Class.
 CONTACT: (248) 668-5673

Novi Hold 'Em Casino Night

DATE: Saturday, May 20
 TIME: 6-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: Lucky's Lucky Strike, Fountain Walk
 DETAILS: This is a fund-raiser for the Novi Chamber of Commerce. A variety of sponsorships are available, including attendance and donations.
 CONTACT: Chamber of Commerce, (248) 349-3743

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, May 2
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

SCHOOL/GOVERNMENT

Wixom City Council

DATE: Tuesday, April 11
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Wixom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail
 CONTACT: (248) 624-4557

Novi City Council Meeting

DATE: Monday, April 17
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 344-0470

Novi School Board Meeting

DATE: Today
 TIME: 7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Education Services Building, 25345 Taft Road
 CONTACT: (248) 449-1200

BUSINESS

Oakland County Business Seminars

TIME: 9 a.m.-noon
 LOCATION: Oakland County Complex, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac
 CONTACT: Registration is required, (248) 858-0783
Write a Business Plan
 DATE: Thursday, April 13
 DETAILS: This is a workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. The cost is \$40.
Sales/Marketing Basics
 DATE: Thursday, April 27
 DETAILS: This class will discuss learning about product position, sales function and advertising. The cost is \$45.

Novi Chamber of Commerce

CONTACT: (248) 349-3743
General Membership Luncheon
 DATE: Tuesday
 TIME: 11:30 a.m. registration; noon lunch
 LOCATION: Fox Run Village, 41009 13 Mile Road

19th Annual Tycoon Tee-Off Golf Outing

DATE: Wednesday, August 9
 LOCATION: Hesse Ridge Golf Course, 11801 Deane Road, South Lyon
 DETAILS: This outing will include sponsorship opportunities, prizes, networking and championship caliber golf.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Events

CONTACT: (248) 624-2826
Business Card Exchange
 DATE: Wednesday, April 26
 TIME: 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 LOCATION: Marriott, 3600 Centerpoint Parkway, Ophelye at Square Lake, Pontiac
 DETAILS: The cost is \$10 advance reservations and \$15 at the door. There will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. The host is Pontiac Regional Chamber of Commerce.
 CONTACT: (248) 335-9600

Women's Empowerment Weekend

TIME/DATE: 7:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday, April 28, and 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 29
 DETAILS: This seminar is sponsored by Suttle Enterprises LLC, Marilyn Suttle. The cost is \$150; \$127 if paid before Feb. 28. Class is limited to 20 women.
 Marilyn Suttle is a communication professional specializing in bringing life into balance with practical, usable skills that improve relationships in every arena of your life.
 CONTACT: To register, call Marilyn Suttle, (248) 348-1023 or visit the Web site: www.ChangeLimitingBeliefs.com/suttle_workshop.htm

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group

TIME/DATE: 8:30 a.m. Third Thursday of every month
 LOCATION: Walsh College, Troy Campus
 DETAILS: Walsh Business Leadership Institute invites women who own, are partners in, or work for family businesses. Items discussed will be common issues and share solutions in a non-threatening, non-competitive, non-sales roundtable. Registration is required.
 CONTACT: Jan Hubbard, email jhubbard@walshcollege.edu

Providence Center for the Healing Arts

LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Avenue, Novi
 CONTACT: (248) 463-5455
Colored Pencil Workshop
 TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m., second Tuesday of every month
 DETAILS: This is a free class. Artist in Residence
 TIME/DATE: 10-11:30 a.m. first and third Thursday of every month
 DETAILS: Join Artist-in-Residence May Ours Stevens and experiment with drawing, pastels, watercolor, Chinese

Walled Lake Community Education classes

DATE: Tuesday, May 2 and 9; Thursday, May 4 and 11
 TIME: 6-10 p.m.
 LOCATION: Walled Lake Middle School, 46720 W. Pontiac

Trill, Walled Lake

DETAILS: Walled Lake Community Education in cooperation with Oakland Builders Institute will offer this sixteen hour seminar, How to Build Your Own Home. It is designed for those who want to contract their own home construction and 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 and insurance requirements. The seminar costs \$199 plus \$30 for textbooks to instructor. Pre-registration with payment is required no later than Friday, April 28 to Walled Lake Community Education.
 CONTACT: (248) 956-5000

Line Dancing

DATE: every Monday and Friday
 TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m., beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m., intermediate
 LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive
 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

LIBRARY LINES

Novi Public Library Hours

LOCATION: 45345 W. 10 Mile Road
 HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
 DETAILS: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
 CONTACT: (248) 349-0720

Easter Holiday Hours

The library will be closed on Friday, April 14 and Saturday, April 15.

Story Time

DATE: Tuesday, ongoing
 TIME: 7-7:30 p.m.
 DETAILS: Preschoolers and their families are invited to enjoy bedtime stories. No registration required.

Reading Buddies

DATE: Wednesday, ongoing
 TIME: 4:30-5 p.m.
 DETAILS: This drop-in Reading Buddy Program pairs older children in fifth-12th grades with younger children in kindergarten-fourth grade to improve the younger child's reading skills and encourage a love of reading.

Author Program

DATE: Today
 TIME: 11 a.m.
 DETAILS: Author Tom Stanton will be discussing his book, "The Final Season: Fathers, Sons, and One Last Season in a Classic American Ballpark." This program is sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library. Registration is required.

"The Piano Lady"

DATE: Wednesday, April 19
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 DETAILS: The whole family is invited to this boogie-woogie concert with Wendy Rollin, "The Piano Lady." No registration is required.

Crafts for Kids

DATE: Thursday, April 20
 TIME: 1-3 p.m.
 DETAILS: Children ages 5-12 are invited to drop in to design and paint a beautiful gem ball. There is a \$2 materials fee. No registration is required.

Library Board Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 19
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center
 DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.

Walled Lake Library Events

LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
 CONTACT: (248) 624-3772
Weekly Story Hours
 TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Wednesday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday
 DETAILS: Includes stories, crafts, finger plays and games. Designed for ages 1-5. No registration required.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op

DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
 CONTACT: Sue Tracz, (248) 380-0998

Friendship Circle

DATE: second Thursday of each month
 TIME: 1 p.m.
 LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325 10 Mile Road, between Taft and Beck roads.
 DETAILS: Social group for all widows and widowers.
 CONTACT: Norbert Monson, (248) 851-6730, Florence Voght, (248) 477-9333, or Joy Iovaldi, (248) 348-9138. joyiovaldi@earthlink.net

MOMS Club of Novi

DATE: first Thursday of each month
 TIME: 10 a.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
 DETAILS: The Moms Offering Moms Support (MOMS) is a non-profit support group, for mothers who choose to stay at home with their children, work out of their homes, or work part-time.
 CONTACT: dinaltman@stcglobal.net

Kensington Valley Mothers of Multiples

DATES: second Thursday of each month
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: Which's Hat Depot, 200 Dorothy St., South Lyon
 DETAILS: This group provides information, support and social activities for mothers of multiple birth children and their families. Mothers of multiples living in and around the Kensington Valley school corridor are all welcome.

Healing Prayer Service

DATE: first Monday of each month
 TIME: 4 p.m.
 LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 777 W. Eight Mile Road
 DETAILS: This service is open to all faiths and is a service of hope.

Women's Prayer Support

DATE: Saturday
 TIME: 9:10:30 a.m.
 LOCATION: Harvest Fellowship Church, 49329 Postiac Trail, Wixom
 DETAILS: Come for encouragement, help, hope and prayer. Drop in for five minutes or longer.
 CONTACT: Nancy or Susan, (248) 926-8332 or harvestfellowship@comcast.net

Breast Cancer Support Group

DATES: second and fourth Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commence, Classroom C
 DETAILS: No registration needed.
 CONTACT: (248) 937-5017

Novi Toastmasters

DATE: first and third Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road
 TIME: 7-8:45 p.m.

Boost Camp Day

TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday and May 5
 LOCATION: Providence Medical Building, 47601 Grand River Avenue

Yoga Class

DATE: Friday
 TIME: 9 a.m.
 LOCATION: Novi Senior Center, 25075 Meadowbrook Road
 DETAILS: Various screening tests are available for stroke risk, osteoporosis, cardiovascular health and bone density. Appointments are required. Each screening requires ten minutes or less to complete.
 CONTACT: 1 (800) 697-9721

Yoga Classes

TIME/DATE: 12:30-1:15 p.m. Monday; 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Friday
 LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River, Novi
 DETAILS: The cost is \$10/walk-in; \$80/10-class card; \$70/7-week evening sessions.
 CONTACT: 1 (800) 697-9721

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Providence Medical Center

LOCATION: Providence Park, Novi, 47601 Grand River Avenue
 CONTACT: (888) 440-7325.

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 DETAILS: This drop-in Reading Buddy Program pairs older children in fifth-12th grades with younger children in kindergarten-fourth grade to improve the younger child's reading skills and encourage a love of reading.

Author Program

DATE: Today
 TIME: 11 a.m.
 DETAILS: Author Tom Stanton will be discussing his book, "The Final Season: Fathers, Sons, and One Last Season in a Classic American Ballpark." This program is sponsored by the Friends of Novi Public Library. Registration is required.

"The Piano Lady"

DATE: Wednesday, April 19
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 DETAILS: The whole family is invited to this boogie-woogie concert with Wendy Rollin, "The Piano Lady." No registration is required.

Crafts for Kids

DATE: Thursday, April 20
 TIME: 1-3 p.m.
 DETAILS: Children ages 5-12 are invited to drop in to design and paint a beautiful gem ball. There is a \$2 materials fee. No registration is required.

Library Board Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 19
 TIME: 7 p.m.
 LOCATION: City Council Chambers at the Novi Civic Center
 DETAILS: Community members are welcome to attend. Meetings are also broadcast live on cable channel 13.

Walled Lake Library Events

LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
 CONTACT: (248) 624-3772
Weekly Story Hours
 TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Wednesday; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday
 DETAILS: Includes stories, crafts, finger plays and games. Designed for ages 1-5. No registration required.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Neighborhood Baby-sitting Co-op

DETAILS: Using the co-op, you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished without the little ones in tow. Also enjoy a mom's night out and other social events.
 CONTACT: Sue Tracz, (248) 380-0998

Friendship Circle

DATE: second Thursday of each month
 TIME: 1 p.m.
 LOCATION: St. James Catholic Church, 46325

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CATHOLIC CENTRAL:
Get ready for Shamrocks spring sports page 5B

NOVI HS BASEBALL and TENNIS:
Both teams looking to continue tradition page 2B

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

10 Novi News (248) 469-1000 www.noviregion.com Sat. 1-3p, 10-10:30p Thursday, April 6, 2006



Lauren Marchionni, a team captain along with Katie and Kellie Walker, pose with last year's state championship trophy.

Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Baseball begins with wins

By Ramon Khuri and Sam Eggleston
STAFFWRITER

The Novi Wildcats baseball team is off to a strong start to the season, going 2-1 in the first three games on the schedule.

Novi defeated Pinckney 9-6 in its first game, then split a double-header with Troy Athens, losing 10-5 and winning 4-3 on Saturday.

The Pinckney game was the first on Novi's new home field in four years.

"We're real happy to be playing on our own turf again," said coach Rick Green. "We always seem to play well on our home field, and it will give the players a boost."

Senior Tom Ciavarella had a triple and a three-run homer, with four runs belted in and two stolen bases. Senior Matt Simpson had three hits, two stolen bases, two runs batted in and two runs scored. Junior Brandon Schwanz was two-for-four, and junior Tom Spischke drove in a run.

Despite 10 errors against Troy Athens in the first game of a double-header, the Wildcats managed to make a game of it before falling 10-5.

"We had the bases loaded with two outs," said Green. "We were one pitch away from getting back into the ball game."

Junior Danny Karcinski went two-for-three with two hits, and Derek Smith had a bases clearing double for three runs batted in. Pat Schlenker had two hits in the game as well.

The second game against Athens was much better for the Wildcats.

Steve Hart pitched the distance, seven innings; Simpson went three-for-four, with two runs scored and three stolen bases. Brett Glover was the leading hitter with three runs batted in, a double and a single.

Track team wins

Novi coach Bob Smith said he was happy to have such a strong competition between Northville and Novi.

"We're in the KVC and they're not, so we don't get to see much of them as we might like," Smith said. "They have some very talented athletes and so do we. That's why it was such a good competition."

The Northville Mustangs started the day off on the right foot, winning the 3200-meter relay with a time of 8:32.2 to Novi's 8:38.7, but Novi bounced back in the 100 dash, winning the top two events with Bobby Dequatre running a 12.1 race followed by Eric Zhao's 12.2. In the 800-meter relay, Novi took first in 1:38 before Wildcat Sean Kelly took first in the high jump with a leap of 5-11 followed by teammate Peter Andrews with a leap of 5-9.

In the mile run, Northville's Jason Turnbull took first with a strong early-season showing of 4:39.1 while Josh Lumley finished second for Novi in 4:49.2 followed by Wildcat Mike Wleza.

In the long jump, Novi's Zhao took first with a leap of 19-4. Coleman went 19-0.75 for third. In the discus, John Brown threw a 115-4.

Novi turned in a top performance in the 400 dash when Brandon Coles took first in 52.7 seconds, followed by Northville's Habib Khan in 54.8. Novi's Eric Johnson ran a 55.1 for third. In the 200 hurdles, Novi's Lee and Wildcat Eric VanBisher took second and third, respectively. Novi's Matt Morrison and Alex Prasad took second and third in the 800. In the 200 dash, Bobby Duquette took first for Novi, followed by teammates Benjamin Peery and Dan Simmons.

The two-mile run was won by Northville with Turnbull taking first in 10:15.1, followed by Novi's What and Scott Wiegner. Novi's Brown won the shutout with a drive of 45-1.5.

The final event of the day was one of the most intense, with Northville's Mike Yissay winning the pole vault with a mark of 12-1.5, followed by Novi's Chris Michalski's 12-5 and Dan Coleman's 12-5.

CAN THEY DO IT AGAIN?

The 2006 'Cats could be the first to win back-to-back girls soccer titles?

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTSWRITER

Can the Novi Wildcats do what no other girls soccer program has ever done? Can they win back-to-back state titles?

To tell you the truth, it would be the furthest thing from their minds if people would just quit asking. "Everyone is always asking us that," said senior captain Lauren Marchionni. "How are we supposed to know?"

The Novi soccer team doesn't need the added pressure. From newspapers to the Internet, they're being touted as the favorite to win the championship this year. But there are a whole lot of steps between now and then.

In fact, specifically saying they want to win another state title is not something that any Wildcat has admitted since the start of the season. They have a few other goals in mind this year.

"Our goals are simple," said coach Brian O'Leary. "One, we want to compete for a KVC championship and, two, we want to get as far as we can in the state playoffs."

But no matter what goals the Wildcats set for themselves, the talk still persists. Captains Marchionni and Kellie and Katie Walker are some of the most talented players in the state, then add the likes of Stephanie Crawford and Emily Esbrook to the mix and soccer fans are fawning at the mouth. "This team is, in the opinion of the pundits and critics, a state-title caliber team."

"The way I deal with all of the other talk is simple, I continually talk to the girls about how to achieve any of your goals in life," O'Leary said. "Do things the right way. Put others before yourself. Live your life as an individual and as a team member. If people are always watching you, even when you're alone, strive to do well because you don't want to let your team down, which could be your family, friends or coworkers outside of soccer."

"If you follow these guidelines, good things will happen. One might be winning a state championship in soccer or you might get something even better, a trophy and rewarding life."

There are plenty of reasons for Novi's soccer team this year in the form of returning top-notch players. Gone are Ms. Soccer Kristi Timar, Sarah Schmitt, Kelly

NOVI HS Soccer		6/14	Away	Semi-Finals	TBA
DATE	Home	6/17	Home	Finals	TBA
4/7	Home	Northville	7 p.m.	IV	
4/10	Home	South Lyon	7 p.m.	4/7	Home
4/12	Away	Lakeland	7 p.m.	4/19	Home
4/24	Away	Grosse Pointe South	7 p.m.	4/12	Away
4/26	Home	Millford	7 p.m.	4/24	Away
4/28	Home	Lakeland	7 p.m.	4/26	Away
5/3	Away	Brighton	7 p.m.	4/28	Home
5/5	Away	Howell	7 p.m.	5/3	Away
5/8	Home	Hartland	7 p.m.	5/5	Away
5/10	Home	Pinckney	7 p.m.	5/8	Home
5/12	Home	Livonia Stevenson	7 p.m.	5/10	Home
5/17	Away	South Lyon	7 p.m.	5/12	Home
5/19	Home	Millford	7 p.m.	5/18	Home
5/26	Away	KVC Cross Over	7 p.m.	5/26	Away

Robert and goalie Kim Herbst and those are players O'Leary readily admits "cannot be easily replaced."

Returning are Crawford (33 goals and 14 assists last year), Stephanie Janssens (14 goals and nine assists), the Walker Sisters (26 goals and 22 assists combined), Esbrook (10 goals and 16 assists) and Jamie Fratton (six goals and nine assists).

And that's just on offense. On defense, Marchionni is back as one of the top players in the area along with Jessica Baraldi and Kristine Chalkos. Sophomores Katie Chalkos and Shannon Cody are back as well and will start for the Wildcats.

Taking over at starting goalie will be freshman Erin Zeris, who already has three wins to her name this season.

Other players on this year's team that will be seeing playing time and who will have an impact on this season are Lauren Treher, Megan Burns, Jenna Carosio, Megan Stec, Veronica Salemi, Kelsy Lau, Rachel Barroli and Liz Miller.

"Overall, we are a very talented team," O'Leary said.

"My biggest concern is that we don't get game tested enough and don't find our weakness until the state playoffs."

With the season underway and Novi already at 3-0, the talk is just going to increase about their odds of another state title.

Some coaches would feel the pressure, but O'Leary just shakes his head.

"I don't feel any pressure to repeat as state champions," said O'Leary, who has won a single state title with each the boys and girls teams at Novi. "I feel pressure to have each kid learn as much about the lessons sports can teach you in life."

"I do not believe that the following is a coincidence, both of the teams that have won state championships were the teams that I thought learned the most about living life properly. They were both selfless and cared more about each other than about themselves."

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

Shooting for 7th straight diamond title

Wildcats baseball team enjoys new home field advantage

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Novi baseball coach Rick Green knew it wasn't going to be easy for his team to recover after losing the likes of Kevin Chis, Zack Flavin and Billy Morrison from last year's squad.

But with hard work and dedication, he believes his players can play up to that level this year.

"Our team goal is to win the Kensington Valley Conference 600 right now, and that's the ball over the plate and play catch. I think we'll be OK."

Green said he expects his team to be more balanced this year than last, and he said his players are very athletic. The Wildcats' weakness, however, is the team's lack of experience.

"We don't really have a number one pitcher," said Green. "We only have five seniors, three sophomores and the rest are juniors. We have 18 players total. We're pretty young."

Novi HS Baseball

Varsity	Away	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
4/7	Away	Lakeland	4 p.m.	
4/8	Home	Northville	1:30 p.m.	
4/12	Home	Brighton	4 p.m.	
4/22	Away	DOCS	12 p.m.	
4/28	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.	
4/28	Home	Harland	4 p.m.	
4/29	Home	Allen Park	10 a.m.	
4/29	Home	Trenton	12 p.m.	
5/1	Away	Pinckney	4 p.m.	
5/3	Away	Millford	4 p.m.	
5/12	Away	Howell	4 p.m.	
5/13	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.	
5/13	Home	Harland	4 p.m.	
5/17	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.	
5/19	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.	
5/20	Home	Lake Orion	11 a.m.	
5/24	Home	Harland	4 p.m.	
5/26	Home	Millford	4 p.m.	
5/28	Home	Districts	TBA	
6/2	Away	Districts	TBA	
6/10	Away	Regional	TBA	
6/13	Away	Quarterfinals	TBA	
6/16	Away	Semi-Finals	TBA	
6/17	Away	Finals	TBA	

JV	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
4/7	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
4/8	Away	Northville	11 a.m.
4/12	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.
4/28	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.
4/28	Away	Harland	4 p.m.
5/1	Home	Pinckney	4 p.m.
5/3	Home	Millford	4 p.m.
5/10	Home	Howell	4 p.m.
5/12	Away	Lakeland	4 p.m.
5/13	Away	Harland	4 p.m.
5/17	Home	Brighton	4 p.m.
5/19	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.
5/20	Home	Lake Orion	11 a.m.
5/24	Away	Harland	4 p.m.
5/26	Away	Millford	4 p.m.

Freshman	Away	Howell <th>4 p.m.</th>	4 p.m.
4/6	Away	Howell	4 p.m.
4/27	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.
5/2	Home	Sutherland	4 p.m.
5/4	Away	Harland	4 p.m.
5/9	Home	Millford	4 p.m.
5/16	Home	Howell	4 p.m.
5/22	Away	Saline	4 p.m.
5/23	Home	Brighton	4 p.m.
5/25	Away	South Lyon	4 p.m.
6/1	Away	Millford	4 p.m.



Novi tennis team co-captains (l to r) Kyle Goodman, Ryan Heffernan and Eric McCuenen.

Wildcats eye potential trek to state finals for fourth year

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Novi tennis coach Jim Hanson isn't one to throw a curve ball at the competition. Each and every year he comes to the pre-season table with the same goals in mind, the same calm demeanor and the same amount of incredible talent. This year doesn't look to be any different.

"I think with the kids we have coming back and the new kids, we're going to compete for the league title again," said Hanson, who has led the Wildcats to three-straight berths to the state finals. "After that we'd like to do the best we can in our regional and advance to the state finals."

This year, Novi's lineup screams for championship play. Leading the team at one singles will be the senior Kyle Goodman, who is following in the shoes of his older brother, Suraj, who also played one singles for Novi.

At two singles will be a very strong Kyle Goodman, who is finally a senior after earning plenty of experience on varsity the past couple seasons. At third singles, Novi showcases the talents of junior Vivek Athalye, a transfer student from St. Cloud, Minn., via California.

"We've played a lot of tennis and it is a very talented player," Hanson said. "He's a nice addition to our team."

Novi's top three players are hardly separated by chasms of talent. Hanson said he didn't doubt his top three players could "beat each other on any given day."

The remainder of Novi's lineup isn't set in stone, but with eight letter winners returning

from last year, there's no doubt the squad is once again going to be a contender.

Seniors on this year's team include Ryan Heffernan, Mike Mehl and David Switzer along with Goodman. Juniors are Athalye, Adam Dauter, Chris Kim, Kevin Lai, Ramachandran and Michael Thomas. Sophomores are Ryan Goodman and Jason Hsu while freshman on this year's varsity squad include Ryan Bell, Mani Mahadevan and Goutham Komati.

"This year's freshman class, including the freshmen on JV, is possibly the best class we've ever had of incoming talent," Hanson said.

The beauty of having such a deep lineup is the flexibility it gives the coach, allowing Hanson to see what works best for his team's long-term goals. The problem with having such a deep lineup is finding playing time for all of the returners.

Novi will once again play a very tough schedule to help prepare them for the post-season. Ann Arbor, Pinckney, Greenhills and Huron are all on the docket, as well as Brother Rice, Troy, Birmingham Seaholm, Rochester, North Farmington and Flint Powers.

"I'm expecting a good season," Hanson said. "I think it's going to be a very tough season, but one that will come down to Novi and Brighton for the KVC again. We'll also be hosting a very competitive regional with Northville, Catholic Central, Stevenson and us and some other very good teams. It's one of the toughest regionals in the state."

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

Novi HS Tennis

Varsity	Away	Holly <th>8 a.m.</th>	8 a.m.
4/6	Away	Holly	8 a.m.
4/10	Home	Pinckney	4 p.m.
4/11	Home	Saline	4 p.m.
4/12	Home	Howell	4 p.m.
4/25	Home	AA Pioneer	3:30 p.m.
4/28	Away	Lakeland	4 p.m.
4/27	Away	Greenhills	3:30 p.m.
4/29	Home	Novi Invite	8 a.m.
5/1	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.
5/3	Away	South Lyon	4 p.m.
5/4	Away	Livonia Stevenson	4 p.m.
5/6	Home	Novi Quad	8 a.m.
5/8	Home	Harland	4 p.m.
5/10	Away	Millford	4 p.m.
5/13	Away	KVC Championships	TBA
5/16	Away	KVC Champ. (Rain)	TBA
5/18	Away	Regionals	TBA
6/2	Away	Finals	TBA

JV	Home	Holly <th>4 p.m.</th>	4 p.m.
4/6	Home	Holly	4 p.m.
4/10	Away	Pinckney	4 p.m.
4/11	Away	Saline	4 p.m.
4/12	Away	Howell	4 p.m.
4/28	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
4/28	Home	Millford Quad	3 p.m.
5/1	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.
5/3	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.
5/4	Away	Harland	4 p.m.
5/6	Home	Novi Quad	8 a.m.
5/11	Home	JV Candy Bag	2 p.m.
5/13	Away	Saline Quad	TBA

Novi golfers ready to challenge in KVC

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

To say the Novi Wildcats golf team has a lot of potential is what is usually referred to in the world of sports writing as an "understatement."

The Wildcats come to the table having shown improvement each of the past five seasons and this year looks to be no different when the Novi squad hits the course in hopes of capturing a Kensington Valley Conference title this year.

"We were fifth in the league last year," said coach Deb Harris in her 14th season. "We are deep with above average players who can score in the mid- to high-40s."

Novi will be led this year by co-captains Abby Greenhill, a senior, and Brenna Outley, a junior. They will be responsible for taking charge of players like Yoo-Jin Kim and Lindsay Celeksi, both who are expected to be major factors in Novi's success this year. Joining them will be juniors Missy Broadwell and Asako Akamatsu, who could potentially

step up and be one of the low scorers for the Wildcats this year.

Representing the sophomore class will be Ashley Sawver, Alexis McMillen, Lauren Parley, Dana Czekaj, Stella Chang, Kelsey Brandemuhl and Vidhi Barman. Freshman on the golf squad include Megan Wenzl, Alice Palmer and Natalie Krick.

Standing in Novi's way of a Kensington Valley Conference title are none other than Brighton, South Lyon and Harland with Pinckney also showing strong potential.

But the Wildcats have more in mind than just a league championship. They'd also like to place in the top 10 in Oakland County as well as advance a player, if not the entire team, to the state finals.

But the team so far only has one player hitting in the low 40s and high 50s, something Harris said her team needs to improve on if they hope to achieve all the goals they have on the scoreboard.

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

Novi HS Golf

Varsity	Home	Northville <th>9 p.m.</th>	9 p.m.
4/6	Home	Northville	9 p.m.
4/7	Away	Harland Best Ball	8 a.m.
4/8	Away	Grosse Ile Inv.	8 a.m.
4/25	Home	Pre-KVC	8:30 p.m.
4/28	Away	Oakland Co	8 a.m.
4/10	Home	Harland JV	9 p.m.
4/27	Away	Howell	13 p.m.
5/1	Away	Lady Private Golf Inv	8 a.m.
5/3	Home	Lakeland	3 p.m.
5/4	Away	Brighton	3 p.m.
5/6	Away	Farmington Best Ball	8 a.m.
5/8	Away	St. John's Tourney (JV)	noon
5/8	Away	Pinckney	3 p.m.
5/10	Home	South Lyon	3 p.m.
5/11	Away	Harland	3 p.m.
5/13	Home	Millford	3 p.m.
5/17	Home	Ann Arbor Huron	3 p.m.
5/18	Away	Regionals	TBA
5/23	Home	Post KVC	8:30 a.m.
6/2	Away	Finals	TBA

HOME SWEET HOME: Novi to host districts

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

As the softball season gets under way, Novi coach Kevin Sutherland can only ponder how other teams in the Kensington Valley Conference take having a home field for granted.

His Wildcats haven't played their home games at Novi High School in four years. But with a ribbon-cutting ceremony about a week ago, the team now has a real home field advantage.

"We played our home games at Power Park next door last year," and we also played in Livonia," said Sutherland. "This year, we finally have a field we can call home. I think that will be good because the girls now

know they don't have to get on a bus for every game we play, home and away. Having that comfort is going to help."

Sutherland hopes the home field will attract more fans to games in the form of players' friends and family. And, he said, folks will not be disappointed in the team, as one of Novi's goals this year is to win its district competition, which it will host.

"I'm always telling them to push themselves even if I'm not around," he said.

To Sutherland, attention to detail means looking the ball into their gloves, snapping their wrists on their throws, making good throws and watching the ball all the way in while hitting. The Wildcats have four captains this year, which consist of the only three seniors on the

Softball schedules can be found on page 40

Sutherland has a little tougher job this year, as he'll be without an assistant coach. He is working with both the outfield and infield.

"I'm always telling them to push themselves even if I'm not around," he said.

To Sutherland, attention to detail means looking the ball into their gloves, snapping their wrists on their throws, making good throws and watching the ball all the way in while hitting. The Wildcats have four captains this year, which consist of the only three seniors on the

How to compete in the KVC

Sutherland said. The Kensington Valley Conference is one of the toughest to compete with in the state. Lakeland is ranked number two in the state,

and Milford is in the top 10, and Howell and Harland are honorable mentions.

That said, however, he does feel his team will fare well as long as the girls keep hitting. In the first game of the season against Pinckney, Novi won 10-0 and merited the Pirates in five innings. Good hitting combined with the team's strengths — defense and pitching — is what Sutherland believes will be the key to success this season.

"Some players that fans should keep an eye on this year are junior outfielder Jenny Heathfield and junior pitcher Brittany Luka and junior catcher/first baseman Amanda Diasono.

"Jenny is a heck of an outfielder," said Sutherland. She

Don't count boys out yet

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Every year Novi boys track coach Bob Smith says he has the largest team ever. Every year he's right.

This season, the Novi Wildcats boast right around 100 members of the boys track team. It's a delight, said Smith, to have such a deep roster to choose from and to develop, but he said it has its downsides at times, too.

"It comes with its problems," he said. "Uniforms, Transportation, Management problems."

"But it's exciting. The sport is really growing and the kids really love it. It's catching on and it's the biggest sport at the school under one schedule."

The Novi Wildcats will be heading into this season with full roster and a list full of objectives. Improvement, for Smith, always tops his agenda as he looks to help each athlete become better in their events. Of course, a Kensington Valley Conference title isn't too far behind, either.

"I don't know how easy that's going to be," Smith said. "We have some of the top teams in the state. Just from a distance standpoint, we have four of the top nine teams in the state in our conference."

"Of course, we finished second in the league last year, so I don't think we'll count ourselves out of anything."

Millford, Brighton, Pinckney and South Lyon will also be looking to contend for the Kensington Valley title this season, but they'll have to work through some very stiff Novi competition in order to get it.

The Wildcats' marquee event this year is the pole vault, featuring such notables as Chris Machisak, Chris Alberty and Dan Coleman as the top athletes. Already this year, Machisak has cleared 13-feet-6 inches in an indoor meet, a mark that would have broke the school record had it been able to be counted as an official score.

Novi will also have some very strong contenders in the hurdles with Coleman and Alberty running the high hurdles and Brendan Neville taking on the low hurdles along with Andrew Lee and Eric VanBuhler.

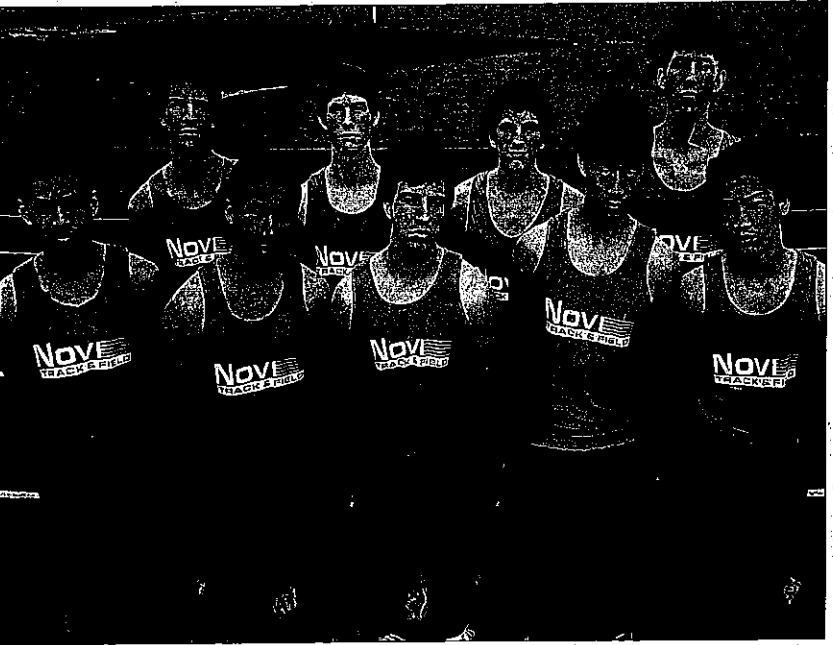
"Those three guys are already in the 42s, which is a real good benchmark for hurdling," Smith said. "All three did (that time) already in the first meet."

The Wildcats will once again be solid in the event they have been known to dominate in years past — the distance runs. Mike Wheat, an All-State runner from the cross country season, will be expected to lead the pack while Alex Prasad and Scott Wagner are right behind him. Also running well is Josh Lumley, who had a strong cross country season and will be expected to earn points for the Wildcats.

Novi is very strong in the field events this year. Besides pole vaulting, the high jump should be covered by Cais as well with Brandon Colby, Sean Kelly and Peter Andrews leading the way. In the long jump, standout Eric Zhao will be key in helping the Wildcats earn wins while Coleman and Matt Evans, a sophomore, will contribute in the event.

Leading the way for Novi in the throwing events will be big John Brown, a junior who has really shown promise in the early days of spring training and competition for Novi. He'll take charge of the discus and the shot put and will have a lot of competition across the conference.

Novi's weakest link will be their sprinting corps, a crew that was decimated by graduation last year after competing in the state finals in both sprint relays. Stepping in to



Novi boys track team co-captains (front row) Kevin Lee, Mike Yiu, Bob Duquette, Eric Zhao, and Andrew Lin; (back row) Dan Coleman, Brendan Neville, Chris Machisak and Brad Carlson.

Novi HS Boys Track

Varsity	Home	Novi Relays <th>1:30 p.m.</th>	1:30 p.m.
4/8	Home	Novi Relays	1:30 p.m.
4/11	Away	Howell	3 p.m.
4/25	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
4/29	Away	Holly Relays	TBA
5/2	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.
5/4	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.
5/6	Away	Safford Relays	8 a.m.
5/9	Away	Harland	4 p.m.
5/12	Away	Twilight Invite	4 p.m.
5/13	Away	Sunshine Invite	9 a.m.
5/16	Home	Millford	4 p.m.
5/19	Away	Regionals	TBA
5/23	Away	KVC Championships	TBA
5/26	Away	Oakland Co	3 p.m.
5/27	Away	Freshman County Meet	9 a.m.
6/3	Away	Finals	TBA

Novi HS Boys Track

Varsity	Home	Novi Relays <th>1:30 p.m.</th>	1:30 p.m.
4/8	Home	Novi Relays	1:30 p.m.
4/11	Away	Howell	3 p.m.
4/25	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
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5/2	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.
5/4	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.
5/6	Away	Safford Relays	8 a.m.
5/9	Away	Harland	4 p.m.
5/12	Away	Twilight Invite	4 p.m.
5/13	Away	Sunshine Invite	9 a.m.
5/16	Home	Millford	4 p.m.
5/19	Away	Regionals	TBA
5/23	Away	KVC Championships	TBA
5/26	Away	Oakland Co	3 p.m.
5/27	Away	Freshman County Meet	9 a.m.
6/3	Away	Finals	TBA

Novi HS Boys Track

Varsity	Home	Novi Relays <th>1:30 p.m.</th>	1:30 p.m.
4/8	Home	Novi Relays	1:30 p.m.
4/11	Away	Howell	3 p.m.
4/25	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
4/29	Away	Holly Relays	TBA
5/2	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.
5/4	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.
5/6	Away	Safford Relays	8 a.m.</

Knights rugby squad aiming to be elite with team's goals

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Knights rugby football club is ready to get their season rolling despite being jammed into one of the state's toughest conferences.

Led by coach Ron Cornell, the Knights are hoping to finish as one of the top teams in the state in order to advance to the Division I state playoffs. Last year, the team finished seventh in the state.

"This year we have some really nice additions to the team," Cornell said. "We have some very good athletes that will help us out a lot. We have a big part of our starting pack coming back this year as well."

Dan Williams, Jonathan Pace, Cam McNamara and four-year player Jack Mason are some of the marquee players on this year's squad. Newcomers who will have a big impact are Peter Cohen and Ryan Corbelli of Northville.

"We have a really nice core to start with," Cornell said. "This year we are mostly made up of kids from Northville, but we have a few from Novi and Walled Lake Central."

Also on the team this year are David Anderson, Zach Craig, Shadi Deabes, Sam Dillon, Steve Fannon, Alex Fink, Dan Griffin, Alex Hamilton, Patrick Keady, Austin Keller, Josh

Kelly, Dan Kosztowny, Andrew Kozlowski, Mike Kraft, Michael LaCivita, Maxx Lesnick, Will McAlpine, Tim Moss, Jeff Monticello, Brad Moss, Anthony Murtha Steve Oubre, Gene Simon, Joseph "Frank" Tafalitan and Aaron Towse.

This year will see a few changes as far as personnel. Last year's starting hooker, Lucian Boan, is trying to earn time as the team's scrum half along with Greg Manley.

But its going to take a lot more than just athletic talent to earn playing time on this year's squad. With about 30 players coming out for the team, Cornell has some big decisions to make.

Knights Roster

David Anderson	Jack Mason
Lucian Boan	Cam McNamara
Peter Cohen	Will McAlpine
Evan Corbelli	Tim Moss
Zach Craig	Jeff Monticello
Shadi Deabes	Brad Moss
Sam Dillon	Anthony Murtha
Steve Fannon	Steve Oubre
Joseph "Frank" Tafalitan	Gene Simon
Aaron Towse	Joseph "Frank" Tafalitan
Alex Fink	Aaron Towse
Dan Griffin	Joseph "Frank" Tafalitan
Alex Hamilton	Aaron Towse
Patrick Keady	Aaron Towse
Austin Keller	Aaron Towse
Josh Kelly	Aaron Towse
Dan Kosztowny	Aaron Towse
Andrew Kozlowski	Aaron Towse
Mike Kraft	Aaron Towse
Michael LaCivita	Aaron Towse
Maxx Lesnick	Aaron Towse
Greg Manley	Aaron Towse

These decisions will have an impact on how well the team is able to handle state powerhouses Brighton, who split into two teams this year thanks to overwhelming participation numbers.

Both Brighton squads are expected to be stronger and Northville lands in a division with Grand Blanc, Dearborn, Dexter and Howell.

"It's a pretty tough division," said Cornell. "Our goal is to stay up with the elite teams and to qualify for the playoffs."

"It's going to be a challenge, but I think we have the team to do it," Cornell said. "We have experience coming back and we have athletes. This should be a really fun year for us."

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

Wildcat track girls busy creating own identity

By Courtney Ratkowiak
SPORTS WRITER

During the first month of the season, varsity coach Marsha Reid explains, a track team needs to develop its identity.

After two weeks, she feels that the Novi girls track and field team has been positively impacted by the interaction between seniors and underclassmen.

"We are a very young team. We're going to go through the first part of the season trying to find a team that will build from this year to next year," she said. "One of the things we're going to look at is the desire of our younger kids and the mentoring of our older kids, coming together, which is a little bit different from what we've had in the past."

The majority of the 93 athletes on the team are freshman and sophomores, while assistant coaches Keith Wilson and Erin Wicker are both in their first year with the team.

"It's a learning process," Reid said. "So many kids are new this year, and we have two new coaches."

Novi HS Girls Track

4/8	Home	Novi Relays	1:30 p.m.
4/11	Away	Howell	4 p.m.
4/25	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
4/29	Home	Holly Relays	TBA
5/2	Away	Brighton	4 p.m.
5/4	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.
5/6	Away	Stafford Relays	8 a.m.
5/9	Away	Hartland	4 p.m.
5/12	Away	Twilight Invite	4 p.m.
5/13	Home	Sunshine Invite	9 a.m.
5/16	Home	Milford	4 p.m.
5/19	Away	Regionals	TBA
5/23	Away	KVC Championships	TBA
5/26	Away	Oakland Co.	3 p.m.
5/27	Away	Freshmen County Meet	9 a.m.
6/3	Away	Finals	TBA

es. It's just getting used to working with new people.

"Even though we have a small junior and senior class... they're a good, core group. The leadership from the seniors is outstanding."

Senior Allison Lofgren and junior Allie Sisson are expected to return to the state meet after last season's state qualifying performances. Other returning performers will be senior distance runners Megan Banatua and Erin Wicker and senior thrower Laura Vandensteep.

Underclassmen standouts include freshman high jumper Heather Arniak, sophomore

sprinter Marica Hamelin, and sophomore pole vaulter Rachel Warawaska.

"It's just a different chemistry from what was previously there," Reid said. "We still have a couple of kids who are really diehard competitors. We have some girls who have the potential to be super competitive, but because they're so young, they're still kind of intimidated by all the upperclassmen."

Reid said that an early challenge for the team has been the absence of athletes from practice due to school musical commitments. Every year, students have attempted to balance musical and track practices for the first weeks of the spring sports season.

This year, Vandensteep, a captain, and potential varsity athlete Kristen Lonsway and Katie Dale are participating in both activities.

"I strongly believe in being involved in more than one thing, but other people who haven't had musical have been far practiced for two weeks," Reid said. "These people are going to come back in and completely change the make-

up of your team, and especially with new coaches, they'll be getting used to a new system... It just seems that this year, kids have had a much harder time balancing the track and being able to come to both, so I've been trying to work around that."

The team's first invitational meet, the Novi Relays, is at Novi High School on Saturday, April 8. KVC meets are on Tuesdays, with the team's first home dual meet on

April 25 vs. Lakeland. The KVC championship meet is on May 23. "I'm excited. They're a fun group," Reid said. "It'll be interesting to see where new talent, along with hard work, takes us."

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

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AMC STAR DUNDEE 11
AMC STAR TAYLOR 19
EMAGINE NOVI
PHOENIX BEL AIR CTR.
SHOWCASE WESTLAND

AMC LIONVA 20
AMC STAR GRANT 21
AMC STAR ROOSTER 11
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MIR SOUTHWATE
SHOWCASE DEARBORN
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STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 7

AMC STAR LAUREL PARK
AMC STAR GRANVILLE 21
AMC STAR DUNDEE 11
AMC STAR TAYLOR 19
EMAGINE NOVI
PHOENIX BEL AIR CTR.
SHOWCASE WESTLAND

BENCHWARMERS

STARTS FRIDAY, APRIL 7

AMC STAR LAUREL PARK
AMC STAR GRANVILLE 21
AMC STAR DUNDEE 11
AMC STAR TAYLOR 19
EMAGINE NOVI
PHOENIX BEL AIR CTR.
SHOWCASE WESTLAND

New CC facilities bring fresh view to track program

By Adam Dubois
SPORTS WRITER

A new regime and a new home hope to bring success to the Catholic Central track and field team this spring. The team will have the luxury of brand new facilities at the new Novi campus this year.

Tony Magni, who has coached the CC Track and field team since 1990, says that the new equipment and facilities will bring a fresh outlook to the program.

"It definitely helps," said Magni. "We finally have our own track. Before, we had to wait for Thurston High to finish their practice before we could start ours. Now we can do things on our own time schedule."

Magni brings 40 total years of coaching experience to the team. He is aided by coaches Roy Dudas, Eugene Guewe and Fr. John Ward. The coaches will look to the seniors for leadership.

"We really don't have captains, but the guys who have been around for four years are the guys we look to," said Magni.

Last year was a season the Shamrocks can build upon. The team went 3-2 in dual meets, and won the city championship. The team placed second at their regional meet. Four members of the team even made it to the State Finals. This year, the team's goals are simple. They just plan on winning dual

meets. Secondly, they want to win the Catholic League title, and, from there, win the State title. Coach Magni feels confident that he has a team that can do just that.

"We're going to have a tough road, but I feel we have a few guys who can make it. Sophomore sprinter Ron Kudyski, sophomore distance runner Zach Oleski, junior shot-putter Jake Maloney, and senior distance runner Jason Mordak are the guys to beat this year," said Magni.

Although the team is ready, Coach Magni admits the journey will be hard.

"The Oakland County is brutal. We now have to face teams like Milford and Novi. Not to mention that we still have to face tough league opponents like Brother Rice and U of D Jesuit," he said.

According to Coach Magni, the 110-member team will have to do well in four specialties in order to compete day-in and day-out.

"We have to excel in the shot-put and discus in order to do well in any meet," he said. "After that, we look to our sprinters and our distance runners."

Coach Magni's experience, and the students' dedication and drive, should lead the Shamrock tracksters to another fantastic season.

Adam Dubois is a sports intern for the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Catholic lacrosse team captains: Pat Nemes, Jake Marmul, and Justin Burgin.

CC lacrosse squad struts its stuff, but falls behind

By Aditya "AI" Athavale
SPORTS WRITER

It was the first game of the season at Catholic Central's new home stadium. The entire varsity lacrosse team was pumped up and ready to go with one for the school.

Playing against a team that is ranked fourth in the state, as was Sealhorn High School, may be nerve racking for some teams but not the CC lacrosse team.

While playing with all their effort in the first half the team was down 2-7, but while in the locker room the team was able to find their legs and go out onto the field and play with a renewed vigor.

"We went back onto the field knowing we were better than what we played and we showed it them (Sealhorn High School), by scoring four goals in the third quarter to bring it back within one," said captain Pat Nemes of the team's incredible comeback.

Unfortunately the team was not able to close out the game and was only able to score one goal for rest of game, allowing Sealhorn to score two goals.

Though the team lost the first game, Nemes says that they are a great team and will hopefully win the rest of the games, leading them to a State Championship.

Aditya Athavale is a sports intern for the Novi News. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Catholic Central HS Lacrosse

Varsity	Home	Brother Rice	5 p.m.	4/8	Away	U of D Jesuit	1 p.m.
4/8	Away	Farmington	3 p.m.	4/10	Away	U of D Jesuit	5 p.m.
4/11	Away	U of D Jesuit	5 p.m.	4/18	Home	East Lansing	5 p.m.
4/13	Home	East Lansing	7 p.m.	4/20	Home	GR Forest Hills	5:30 p.m.
4/20	Away	GR Forest Hills	5:30 p.m.	4/26	Home	St. Mary's Prep	5 p.m.
4/26	Home	St. Mary's Prep	7 p.m.	4/29	Home	BH United	11 a.m.
4/29	Home	BH United	1 p.m.	5/1	Away	De La Salle	5 p.m.
5/2	Away	De La Salle	6 p.m.	5/4	Home	Ann Arbor Pioneer	5 p.m.
5/4	Home	Ann Arbor Pioneer	7 p.m.	5/6	Home	Elsenhower	5 p.m.
5/6	Home	Elsenhower	2 p.m.	5/16	Away	Ann Arbor Huron	6 p.m.
5/9	Away	CHSL	TBA	5/19	Home	Troy	5 p.m.
5/13	Away	CHSL	TBA	5/23	Away	Troy	5 p.m.
5/16	Away	Aur Huron	7:30 p.m.	5/19	Home	Troy Athens	7 p.m.
5/19	Home	Troy Athens	7 p.m.	5/23	Away	Troy	7 p.m.
5/23	Away	Troy	7 p.m.	5/24	Away	State Regional	TBA
5/24	Away	State Regional	TBA	6/7	TBA	State Semi-Final	TBA
6/7	TBA	State Semi-Final	TBA	6/10	TBA	State Final	TBA
6/10	TBA	State Final	TBA	5/2	Away	Ann Arbor Pioneer	5 p.m.
5/6	Home	Elsenhower	10 a.m.				
5/10	Home	Clarkson	5 p.m.				
5/18	Home	U of D Jesuit	5 p.m.				
5/20	Away	De La Salle	5 p.m.				
5/23	Home	Ann Arbor	5 p.m.				

'Cats lacrosse squad sees many changes

By Rameez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Perhaps one of the biggest changes the Novi Wildcats lacrosse team has endured this season is the welcoming of a new head coach.

Nick Asman, who was the junior varsity coach last year, isn't new to the program, he's just moving to the varsity team. And he brings a somewhat different philosophy to the table.

"There are a lot of young programs in our conference, and right now Novi is in a place where we need to be playing a higher caliber of teams and start getting involved in inter-state play with Ohio schools and schools in Illinois and as far as Pennsylvania," said Asman. "I'd like to have a broader schedule and start seeing different teams."

Novi has already played against Brother Rice this season — a team Asman called "the toughest in the state and the best competition the Wildcats will see all year." Novi lost the game 17-1, but that's OK to Asman.

"I'd like to continue to play against competition of that nature and to play up to that competition," he said.

Asman has selected four seniors as captains: attacker Scott Smith,

Novi HS Lacrosse

Varsity	4/10	Away	Hartland	7 p.m.
4/12	Away	Howell	7 p.m.	
4/24	Home	Milford	6:30 p.m.	
4/25	Away	Ann Arbor Pioneer	7 p.m.	
4/27	Home	Brighton	6:30 p.m.	
4/29	Home	Grosse Pointe South	1 p.m.	
5/1	Away	South Lyon	7 p.m.	
5/8	Home	Grosse Pointe South	6:30 p.m.	
5/11	Home	Hartland	6:30 p.m.	
5/15	Away	Milford	7 p.m.	
5/18	Home	South Lyon	6:30 p.m.	
5/22	Away	Regionals	TBA	
6/6	Away	Regionals	TBA	
6/8	Away	Semi-Finals	TBA	
6/10	Away	Finals	TBA	

defenseman Nick Shafar, midfielder John Fawcett and attacker Rocky Watts. He said the team is young and needs to concentrate on the fundamentals in order to be successful through the 17-game schedule.

He'd also like to work on developing a consistent offense. "With the coaching staff we have, I think we're going to be successful on defense, but we need to get a successful offense running and just compete," said Asman.

"Last year we lost to Brother Rice in the third round of the playoffs. We also lost a lot of seniors from last year."

This year the team has eight seniors and six sophomores and has been forced to bring up some players from the JV team.

"We would have liked them to play junior varsity, but we need to have the bodies on the varsity team," said Asman. "I think we do have good senior leadership. We're adjusting through some things right now."

A big challenge for the Wildcats has been getting ready to be in game-shape due to a shortened season. Asman has cited some key games on the schedule as "must-wins." Like the Ann Arbor Pioneer game, for one.

"We'll use those games to gauge ourselves by for the season," said Asman. "It's difficult to say at this point how far we can go. We finished 12th in the state last year, but it's a new team. It's going to take some time developing some chemistry. This team does not have an identity yet."

Players to watch for on the field are Shafar, Watts, Smith, Fawcett and sophomore George Regal. "George is an outstanding play-

er," said Asman. "Craig Howell has a great shot also."

"Nate Flecha is an assistant coach who we're happy to have back, too," he added.

Rameez 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.

Novi HS Softball

Varsity	4/7	Home	Lakeland	4 p.m.
4/7	Away	Northville	1:30 p.m.	
4/8	Home	Brighton	4 p.m.	
4/12	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.	
4/26	Away	Hartland	4 p.m.	
4/28	Home	Plymouth	4 p.m.	
5/1	Away	Milford	4 p.m.	
5/3	Away	Northstar Journey	TBA	
5/6	Away	Northstar Journey	TBA	
5/7	Away	Howell	4 p.m.	
5/10	Away	Lakeland	4 p.m.	
5/12	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.	
5/13	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.	
5/19	Home	South Lyon	4 p.m.	
5/24	Home	Hartland	4 p.m.	
5/26	Home	Milford	4 p.m.	
5/28	Home	District	TBA	
6/2	Away	District	TBA	
6/10	Away	Regional	TBA	
6/13	Away	Quarterm	TBA	
6/16	Away	Semi-Final	TBA	
6/17	Away	Finals	TBA	

SPORTS SHORTS

Northville alumni athletes dinner
Northville alumni athletes, coaches and administrators are invited to attend the Varsity Alumni Dinner May 12, starting at 6 p.m. at Genetti's in Northville.

The cost is \$20 per person plus a cash bar and the event is open to any former Northville High School student-athletes, coaches, administrators and their guests that graduated in 2001 or before. Payment is due by May 5 and can be sent to the Athletic Department of Northville High School with the guest's name, year of graduation, address and if they are a former athlete, coach or administrator. Please mail payment to Bryan Klose, Athletic Director, 45700 W. Six Mile Road, Northville, MI, 48168.

For more information, please contact Northville athletic director Bryan Klose at mkloseb@northville.k12.mi.us.

LTC camp hosts NCAA Division I coaches
Lacrosse Training Centers brings some of the top East Coast lacrosse coaches (and staff) during their June 23-25 lacrosse camp in Brighton.

Tom Mariano enters his tenth season as the head men's lacrosse coach at Sacred Heart University. Mariano has helped the Pioneers evolve into a solid and competitive program as they enter their fourth season as members of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), arguably one of the top increase conferences in the country.

Currently in his eighth season as head coach, Tim McIntire has been at the forefront of the successful turnaround of the Manhattan men's lacrosse program. McIntire joined Manhattan after a stellar playing and coaching career on the collegiate, professional and international level.

Darryl Della is a certified US Lacrosse Progression Instructor, as well as a co-director of Run and Shoot Lacrosse Camps. Della coaches at Fairfield University where his duties include serving as Offensive Coordinator as well as, Recruiting Director for the Stars.

Register online at www.LacrosseTC.com or give (248) 788-7020.

Spring Learn to Skate at Novi
Novi Ice Arena will run an eight-week spring session of its Learn to Skate Program through May 13, 2006 (no classes April 12-23). Classes are offered Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and skate rental is available.

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. Classes will run once per week for 30 minutes with optional 30-minute practice sessions.

The following classes will be offered:
• Beginning Toes
• Snowplow Sam 1-3
• Basic 1-5
• Skater's Edge Accelerated Bridge Program
• Adult

Open registration for Learn to Skate is underway and skate rental is available. The Learn to Skate Program is very popular so call the Novi Ice Arena at (248) 347-1010 or visit www.novicearena.com today to inquire about the proper class for your skater.

Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp
Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. This camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls, ages 10-19, are eligible to apply. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince

Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from every state and 18 countries attended the 2005 camp. College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. Camp locations include: Lebanon, Tenn., Prescott, Ariz., Thousand Oaks, Calif., Sterling, Colo., Bridgeport,

Conn., Bobson Park, Fla., Gainesville, Ga., Champaign, Ill., North Manchester, Ind., Towson, Md., Ypsilanti, Glastonbury, N.J., Schenectady, N.Y., Hickory, N.C.,

Commerce, Texas, Blacksburg, Va., Lynchville, Va. and Beloit, Wis.

For more information and a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873.

Sugarloaf Art Fair

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Novi News
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REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page B1

Local News

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Home Owners...Do you have Well Water & Septic?

Wells: The quality of well water depends upon the type of well and the ground conditions in your area. A well collects water that filters down through the soil and seeps into the well. In some cases there may be contaminants in the well water and if it is to deep, it may contain sulfur and other minerals. Wells should be tested regularly for bacteria, chemicals and other debris. Remember, water that has a bad odor or taste could be drinkable, and that water will go on or in taste may be contaminated. This is why it is very important to have the well water checked regularly.

Well pumps are used to bring the water from the well and place it into a storage tank until needed. Submersible pumps with an electric motor are placed into the well. Jet pumps, where the pump is located above ground, is a motorized version of the old hand pump. Depending on the system, it is usually placed in a portion of the storage tank. The pump is filled with air or a disinfectant. The air is compressed and when there is a demand for water, the air forces the water from the tank. Typical pressure for a residential system is 40 to 60 psi.

When the pump starts and the pressure is low, this is an indication of a leak in the system or not sufficient air in the storage tank. Another symptom is a pump that starts as a faucet is turned on. If you hear the pump running at low intervals while no water is being used, this could also indicate a leak in the main pipe, or a leak in the foot valve.

HOW TO ENSURE A PROPER SUPPLY OF WELL WATER

- Ensure a properly sized storage tank for your family's needs
- Check the motor, storage tank, electrical ground, filters, and air control for signs of leaks and corrosion
- Install a filter system to remove bacteria and particles, which will eliminate odors
- Consider a water softener if you water contains minerals
- Have a water quality test performed every 2 years to ensure the water is safe for your family and the well has not had any underground leakage occur to contaminate the well water

Septic System: The septic tank is a watertight container located underground, for holding the waste water from the house. This allows sewage to be decomposed by bacteria into a liquid and sludge. The sludge settles to the bottom of the tank and the liquid and sludge rise to the top. The liquid is dispersed into the septic field area. The septic tank is generally 10 to 15 feet from the house and is recommended to be 100 feet from the well. The tank is 4 to 6 feet deep. For some small lots approval has to be given for 35 feet of depth.

The liquid goes to the field from the tank by a distribution system of pipes leading into the field area. These pipes are perforated and are laid out over the entire field area to properly disperse the liquid into the soil. The moisture of the soil is very important for proper operation of the septic system. A good mixture of soil, sand and gravel is required to have a good field. A good mixture is not recommended. This can be checked and verified by a certified professional.

SIGNS OF TROUBLE WITH THE SEPTIC SYSTEM:

- Do not have any plants, bushes or trees growing over the septic field area
- If you have areas of burnt grass over the field this could be an indication that the system has failed or is overloading
- Sewage odors in the house drains
- Field area has standing water or wet areas which indicate the liquid water in the system which could indicate a clog pipe

HOW TO ENSURE A PROPER SEPTIC SYSTEM OPERATION:

- Dispose of solids appropriately - do not put cooking grease, cigarette butts or paper towels down drains or toilets
- Avoid dumping multiple loads of laundry and/or dishes in one day
- Ensure all rain water and sprinkler systems water is diverted away from the septic field area
- It is not recommended to have the waste water from a water softener drain into the septic system as this does not break down easily and could clog system
- It is not recommended to have a heavy use of a garbage disposal when using a septic system, and only certain items when it is used
- Have the septic tank pumped every 3 to 4 years. This depends on the size of the tank, number of people living in the home, amount of water used (dishes, clothes, laundry), washing cycles, number of toilets, etc.
- Inspect the overall system regularly for the above mentioned items to ensure all is working properly. An inspection will ensure a well & septic professional

Call us to have your well and septic systems inspected and ensure your family has a good quality well water and septic system operations for your home.

Richard Patterson
Certified Well To Flow
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For additional information please visit our website at:
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Richard Patterson is a Certified Home Inspector with Well To Flow serving Western Oakland and Livingston Counties.

ADVERTISMENT

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Bell's Landscape Services, located at 28401 Haas Road in Wixom, provides a wide array of services for customers seeking ultimate curb appeal. (Left-Right) Dave Crain, Breesan Castiglione, Ron Falkewicz, Marcy Bell, Mike Bell and Scott Bell (inside truck).

Bell's Landscape Services

Dependability and experience matter most

Bell's Landscape Services, Inc. of Wixom has been a woman-owned and operated, owner Mike Bell has built his loyal customer base by providing quality workmanship and personal service. Bell's prides themselves on the diverse range of services they offer, from Landscape Installation to Grounds Maintenance Services. Not only do they maintain residential homes, they maintain homeowners associations, common areas, condominiums and apartment complexes, office, retail and industrial sites, too.

Mike Bell says, "His philosophy is to be able to provide clients with quality services and not have them have to deal with several contractors. We can do it all... one call can have your property managed for the season." From start to finish, Bell's will create, construct, design and install an award-winning landscape on your site. As a licensed builder, Bell's Landscape Services can install a custom deck, retaining wall or gazebo, complete that with brick paver walkways and patio. Enjoy evenings outdoors and improve security by installing landscape lighting. Water features such as ponds and fountains, creates a relaxing atmosphere for your home.

Many of Bell's landscape designs have received awards from their peers in the industry. Most are for the design/build

projects that they've created. Because their goal is customer satisfaction, much of their business comes through personal referrals and many are repeat customers, who have stayed with them throughout the years. Not only is Bell's Landscape adding second generation staff, they are now getting clients, whose parents have used Bell's services.

"The sales staff at Bell's will meet with clients to personalize their landscape space. This is their home or business and their input is very important," says Mike Bell.

Bell observes many people, especially working couples, often lack the time and energy to keep their landscape looking attractive. Hiring a dependable landscape service can remove one more task from a busy schedule. Bell's Landscape can keep your property looking beautiful with a complete schedule of landscape maintenance programs.

"Dual-income families make up 70 percent of households today, and most don't have the time to maintain their landscape," said Bell. "My customers rely on me to take care of their grounds maintenance needs." Bell's landscape maintenance program begins with the basics: lawn mowing and fertilization. Along with lawn services, they install and repair sprinkler systems to keep grass healthy and green. They also provide shrub and tree care, mulch installation, pruning, and bed care to maintain beautiful flower beds. Seasonal services include those big jobs, like spring and fall cleanup, the jobs that can be so overwhelming and time consuming.



Bell's Landscape Services provides various services.

Bell's commercial property customers have also received many benefit awards for their design and maintenance. In addition to their routine maintenance, they also offer professional parking lot sweeping and maintenance for commercial buildings and subdivisions. During the winter season, they offer professional snowplowing and salting services.

Forget shopping around with several vendors. Bell's philosophy is simple: offer a complete range of services with professional results. While some landscape companies come and go, quality work and professionalism is never compromised and it has helped them build a solid reputation. They guarantee quality workmanship.

Bell's Landscape Services has been located in Lyon Township for the past 17 years. They have been active supporters to the schools and community since they moved here.

Scott Bell, Vice President of

LANDSCAPING TIPS

- Choosing a landscaper who you feel comfortable working with.
- If starting new construction, be prepared with an idea, concept and budget.
- Determine what needs to be done to complete the project, such as what steps or materials are required.
- Get a true cost so you won't be surprised with additional charges or low quality materials.
- Check their credentials. Are they licensed, bonded or insured?
- Get references from former customers.
- Remember you get what you pay for. If the price seems too good to be true, it usually is.

"Jim," said Bell. Bell's Landscape is licensed and insured, which is another guarantee that clients will receive quality work. To ensure prompt service they also own, maintain and repair all of their own equipment. Their service region covers a thirty mile radius that encompasses a wide area north to M-59 and south to I-94, west to I-19 and east to Telegraph Rd.

Bell's Landscape Services, Inc. is located at 28401 Haas Rd. in Wixom. Call (248) 486-0960 for a free estimate, or check out their Web site at www.bellslandscape.com. Hours: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Landscape Services, Inc.

28401 Haas Rd. Wixom, MI 48393
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