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Novi, Michigan

Look inside for your  
**GREEN SHEET**  
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**INSIDE**



**Sweet success**

Toilgate Farm manager Roy Prudence used stainless steel tanks to belt down sap harvested at the MSU education center to make a bumper crop of maple syrup.

**Loser**

Novi Middle School teacher Paul Hoffman, one of the many instructors engaged in their "biggest loser" contest, is watching his calories and bearing them by parking at a shopping mall a half mile away and walking to class.

# Chamber vote tally awaited

**Revisions not open for debate at luncheon; only members who attended voted**

By Sam Eggleston  
 STAFF WRITER

Waiters were busy handing out dishes at the Novi Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday afternoon, but not everyone was happy with what was on their plate. The luncheon, held at Fox Run,

was the scene for a critical vote on revised, and what some members considered questionable, bylaws. As of 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, the results of the vote had not been released by the Chamber. Members had to be present in order to vote and some weren't aware of the occasion.

For our editorial on the bylaws issue, please turn to page 16A.

"I didn't even know we were voting today until they handed this to me," said member Rossan

DiCicco of the ballot before the luncheon. "I haven't had a chance to take a look at a copy of the old bylaws, so I really can't make an educated decision until people speak about it today."

Bylaw changes included pro-

continued on page 3

# Redistricting effort begins

**Novi district's facilities focus of sub-committee**

By Ramez Khuri  
 STAFF WRITER

Novi School Board members liked what they heard last Thursday, as Jan Koster provided the first of many school utilization and redistricting committee updates.

The committee was assembled after the board voted to redo the district's boundary lines earlier this year. Since then, it has met four times.

Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance, said the committee has been divided into six groups. Each group's charge was to walk through individual buildings in the district at night and during the day to see how they are in use. They are focusing

on facilities by taking a look at the differences between buildings and how the educational program is delivered in each one.

Then they will report back to the committee as a whole to review and evaluate all their findings.

There has also been a sub-committee formed of six parents

working on coming up with new boundary lines.

"These six people are very committed and objective," said Koster to the board. "They

are asking whether or not members can meet over Easter vacation. They recognize this is time consuming and they recognize it's somewhat complicated, but they're willing to do it."

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# Tower makes agreement

**Novi firm settles with current and future retirees on health care**

By Tracy Mithier  
 STAFF WRITER

Tower Automotive has made a settlement with two groups representing current and future retirees, to be submitted for approval to the United States Bankruptcy Court in New York.

Both settlements include modifications to health care benefits that will help Novi-based Tower, which declared bankruptcy in February 2005, restructure and emerge from bankruptcy, according to Tower officials.

The settlements cover retired

salaried employees company-wide as well as current and future retirees of the recently-closed Milwaukee, Wis. facility.

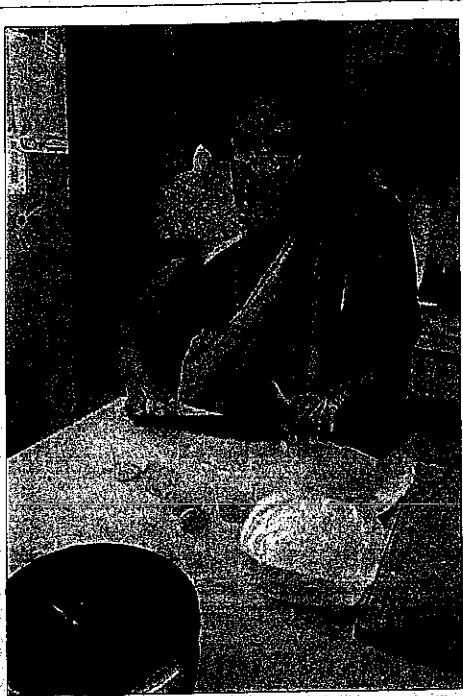
Joe Kirk, spokesperson for Tower, said Tower will continue to pay current benefits through June 30.

"Then, on July 1, there will be a trust established for each of those groups," called a "Voluntary Employee Benefits Association (VEBA) trust, to help administer future benefits," Kirk said. "It will help Tower and end their financial obligation on health care."

Kirk said Tower agreed last Thursday to make payments to the trust for all vested salaried workers of approximately \$5 million.

He also said a separate trust will administer benefits for current and future retirees at the Milwaukee manufacturing facility, and the company will contribute approximately \$30 million in equity.

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With a roller in both hands, Sunetra Humbad prepares the Indian grilled wheat bread treat chapati in her Novi home. Humbad teaches Indian cooking in her kitchen. Chapati is made with flour, salt and a bit of oil.

# Cooking Indian-style

**Resident's next home sessions start in May**

By Pam Fleming  
 STAFF WRITER

Sunetra Humbad is not your average woman. At 55, she wife and mother of four teaches area residents how to make dishes of her native land, India, in her Novi home. She has also been a licensed day care provider for 25 years, is a quilter and recreational ballroom dancer.

For \$100, area residents can learn the secrets of her vegetarian Indian cooking at home, with Humbad guiding them every step of the way.

Humbad moved to Novi about 15 years when her husband, Niranjana, a climate control engineer, moved to the Detroit area for his job.

About 20 years ago, Humbad taught Indian cooking classes in her Boston home with the help of a translator.

"I learned English from soap operas," she said, "and I'm hooked now." Humbad noted that her favorite daytime drama is "The Young and the Restless."

Humbad has sold more than 9,000 copies of her cookbook, "Indian Vegetarian Cooking at Your House," published with a friend, Dr. Amy Schaefer Bagan, in 1995. The book features 133 recipes for vegetarian dishes.

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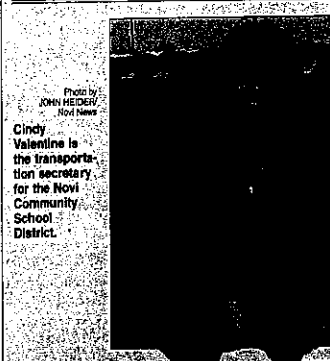


Photo by JOHN HEDDER/Novi News  
**Cindy Valentine is the transportation secretary for the Novi Community School District.**

# Celebrating Valentine's Day in April

**Transportation secretary earns excellence award**

By Ramez Khuri  
 STAFF WRITER

Cindy Valentine has only been on the job for about two years, yet she has won the annual transportation excellence award.

"That's what makes her immediate supervisor, Dr. Tooman, so impressed."

Valentine is the transportation secretary/writing specialist for the Novi Community School District. According to Tooman, everyone

who won the award in the past has worked at least six years or more.

"She has gained so much respect from her peers, that they made her employee of the year," said Tooman. "She's very skilled at being a people-person. She can handle every

whether it be negative or positive. She treats everybody the same.

"She knows how to work with people, and that's a big asset for us."

Valentine's immediate reaction after hearing of her award was pure disbelief. She said she's very honored to win it because it's not an award won given by the bosses. Instead, so workers voted for her.

"They write names down, and Dan takes them all to Oakland County," said Valentine. "There, all the transportation directors from each school district go through them."

Tooman wasn't allowed to go through the Novi nominations, but he did look at them. It's a long

before it was clear who Novi's winner was.

The transportation department from Oakland County will now hold a dinner for the winner Wednesday in Rochester.

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## Novi district's facilities focus of sub-committee

continued from front page

Koster said the committee is also going to make a presentation to the board when it believes it has something worthy to report. Members have been meeting in the conference room of the transportation office with an overhead and a projector that shows the entire district, and are using transportation software to analyze district neighborhood lines.

They're also addressing a grandfather initiative. The school board parameter currently says any grandfathering in schools would apply in the third and fourth grade. The committee is going to struggle with that, and probably come up with a poll to send to all parents in the district to

determine if they would like their children to be grandfathered into individual schools.

"They have come up with a couple of plans, but they're not satisfied with them yet," said Koster. "There has been a lot of communication that all of this has been predetermined by administration. Trust me, it hasn't been predetermined. These lines could be anywhere in the district when it's all said and done."

### Everything will be explained

The sub-committee will make at least three variations of a redistricting plan and then go back to the committee as a whole. Whatever the group comes up with will be up for critique by their peers. They'll have to explain both pros and cons of why they developed what they did.

"They're coming up with some great ideas, and currently they are analyzing the potential growth within this district," said Koster.

Koster said some plans had to be changed because a lot of new developments in the city are not progressing the way the district originally anticipated. The committee has adjusted projected build-out timelines and is now going to take a look at the effect of those build-outs in all new areas before draw the lines.

"I have a good deal of faith in these people," said Koster. "They're extremely hard working. We may be a long way. I don't know, but this committee doesn't want to hurry or rush it. They want to come up with something that is very logical because they know when they present it to the community as a whole, they have to bring it." *Timothy Koster is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at tkoster@gannett.com.*

## Transportation secretary earns excellence award

continued from front page

"It's a better award than ever, winning it that way, because it means more," said Valentine. "It means her own peers appreciate what she does."

"It's important to know how to work with people and keep everybody happy," he added. "She has done that. She does a great job of keeping things going in the right direction."

In her job, Valentine answers the radio when drivers call in, she answers phones and she sets up routes and bus stops. She also does scheduling for trips, for substitute drivers and she handles correspondence for the department. She deals with parents, teachers, administrators and drivers on a daily basis.

Valentine regards the birth of her children as the most memorable experience in her life. She describes herself as a good person with a big heart, who's a loyal friend and caring.

"I think I have good people

### Cindy Valentine

Age: 42  
Occupation: Transportation secretary/routing specialist  
Family: husband, Ken; daughters, Kelley, 15; Karley, 13; Kristina, 11  
Pets: dog, Sadie; cat, Sheba  
Hobbies and/or interests: She enjoys watching NASCAR races, and her favorite driver is Jeff Gordon. She also likes reading, listening to music and spending time with her children. Her favorite activity is going shopping with them.  
Advice: "You have to be able to work with a lot of different personalities," said Valentine. "You have to have a good sense of humor, you can't take things personally, and you need to have a good attendance record."  
Awards: Valentine won the Excellence in Transportation Award this year.  
Schools: She attended Walled Lake Central High School.  
Years in position: two in May  
Grew up in: Novi, but she lived in Walled Lake during her high school years.

"I have the ability to focus, and I get along with a lot of different personalities," she said. "The kids go to Novi Schools. It's a great place to live."

Home: Koster is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at tkoster@gannett.com.

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## Chamber vote tally awaited

continued from front page

visions that restricted knowledge of the wages of chamber's chief executive — President Nora Champignon — to only the six-person executive committee. The proposed bylaws would make the president a voting member of the chamber board and all of its committees.



Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Chamber member Tom Steffler stands up to ask for a delay of voting during Tuesday's Novi Chamber of Commerce luncheon during which the new bylaws were voted on.

Board of directors member Robert Thorne indicated he was surprised to hear that there were concerns regarding the proposed bylaws.

"I've been out of town and I was unaware that people had concerns until recently," he said. "The concerns that were voiced today I'm not sure were that clear. I thought the bylaws and today's vote were well known and that there was plenty of prior knowledge."

A summary of the proposed bylaws was first sent out in the Chamber's March newsletter, followed by a separate mailing two weeks ago of the complete bylaws.

Thorne did indicate he would have expected members to be allowed to speak at the luncheon prior to the vote.

"I think everyone has a right to voice their opinions and their concerns without being shut out," he said. "As an individual board member, I would have allowed them to speak. I'm not sure it would have changed anything."

Others disagreed. Kozlowski said she believed the way the bylaws situation was handled was not in the best interest for the members of the Chamber.

"They don't want to hear from the members," she said. "They haven't talked about it. They've closed it; that's what they did."

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## Honorary members no more

By Sam Eggleston  
STAFF WRITER

Long-time Novi resident and business owner Victor Cassis wasn't happy with at least one of the proposed changes to the current Novi Chamber of Commerce bylaws, which were voted on members at Tuesday's luncheon.

With votes not tallied by press time, Cassis was still waiting to hear if the new bylaws were passed or rejected. If the former, then his current role with the Chamber will come to an end.

As an honorary member of the Chamber, Cassis has no voting privileges, is exempt from the payment of dues and is ineligible to serve as an officer and/or a director.

But none of that mattered to Cassis.

"I was very happy when they bestowed this honor on me," he said. "It was their way of thanking me for my years in this community and as a business owner here."

A member for many years as well as a member of the Board of Directors and chair in 1993-94, Cassis helped build and promote the chamber.

If the vote passes, the honorary membership granted to Cassis and others will come to an end. A revision to Article III of the present bylaws would revoke all honorary memberships.

"I didn't feel right about it," said Cassis. "It felt a little slighted," said Cassis after the luncheon. "Once you bestow an honorary membership, you don't get taking it away from them unless they've committed some crime or violation."

"I am sad to see it stop," Cassis said he was approached during the luncheon and told by a current board of directors member that he would be reinstated.

Honorary membership or not, Cassis said he likes the current Chamber and the members but there's always room for improvements and growth.

"The promotion of openness and discussion and communication and disclosure is a good thing. It will serve everyone's interest and will promote the Chamber and even bring in more membership."

## Novi firm settles with current and future retirees on health care

continued from front page

"Both agreements were filed with the bankruptcy court, but they still need to be approved," Kirk said.

## Resident teaches secrets of Indian cooking

continued from front page

At the second session of her most recent series on March 28, Humbal and students made Chane, pronounced chah neh, which is spicy chick peas. Bataata Vada, fried potato balls. Rice Phir. Apple Butter Chutney, and Galah Jamm, pronounced gah lah jeh meh, which is a milkball dessert.

Humbal noted that one of her French-Canadian friends could eat 25 of the daughters-hole-like balls.

"I used to hike some from her when she'd come over," she joked.

## Students learn useful tips

Students at the last class included Judy Abbott of Commerce Township and her mother, Debbie Abbott of West Bloomfield; Cindy Voule of RiverView; Jean Timlin of Westland, who brought her 9-month-old son, Christopher; and Jeanine Honnora of Ann Arbor.

Humbal provides useful tips during class, such as adding salt to the corn oil when preparing fried foods to prevent the oil from smoking.

The class includes a six-course dinner during which class participants get to try all of the dishes they just prepared plus copies of recipes made that night.

Humbal also sells Indian spices and cookware from her home and has a mailing list.

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

Kathleen Ligoeki, president and chief executive officer of Tower, said the company appreciates the retirees' willingness to do their part to ensure that the reorganization plan is successful. "The decision to ask our retired colleagues for changes to the benefits they receive was a difficult one, but it is a necessary step in achieving the cost savings that are critical to our reorganization plan," Ligoeki said in a statement. "These agreements, which resolve over 90 percent of Tower's retiree obligations, enable the company to reduce its costs while providing a framework for continued health care coverage."

Kirk said Tower has not reached an agreement with its unions; however, talks continue.

"We'll hopefully reach an agreement soon, but no date has been established," he said.

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

## CHANE (Spicy Chick Peas, pronounced chah neh)

- Hot pepper mixture: Grind together and set aside:
- 1 fresh hot pepper
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 pinch cumin seeds
- 1/2-inch piece of fresh ginger, grated
- Heat in saucepan:
- 2 T. oil
- 1/2 t. turmeric
- 1/2 t. hing (dry pinch)
- 1/2 t. black mustard, cumin, sesame seed mixture
- Add:
- 1 t. hot pepper mixture
- 1 T. tomato paste
- Add powdered spices:
- 1 t. turmeric
- 2 t. cumin/coriander powder
- 1/4 t. red pepper powder
- 1/2 t. chili powder
- Add:
- 1 1/2-ounce can chick peas
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 and 1/4 salt
- 1 handful coriander leaves
- Boil for 10 minutes.

## BATAATA VADA (Fried Potato Balls)

- In a large bowl, combine:
- 5 large potatoes, boiled, peeled and mashed
- 1 small onion, finely chopped (optional)
- 1 t. fresh, minced garlic
- 1 t. curin powder
- 2-4 t. lemon juice
- 1 t. fresh coriander, chopped
- 1 and 1/2 t. hot red pepper
- Make small balls with the mixture and set aside.
- Make a batter with:
- 6 mashing T. Indian chick pea flour
- 1/2 t. hot red pepper powder
- 1 t. namaste powder
- Salt to taste
- Enough water to make a thick batter.
- Drop the potato balls in the batter until well coated and fry in deep oil until golden brown.

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This year, we're examining the events of the first Easter weekend in an effort to help us understand God more and know Him better. We'll have children's programs (birth- to grade 5) at all three of our weekend services. Your kids will love it! We hope you'll join us!

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# COMMUNITY

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## MSU's Tollgate Farms enjoys sweet success

Maple syrup production hits impressive totals

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Roy Prentice is beaming. As farm manager at Michigan State University's Tollgate Farms in Novi, he's in charge of the educational center's maple syrup production.

And this year's production was a bumper crop.

The maple tree sap is extracted from the trees with a tap, and the sap is then boiled down to create the sweet treat.

"We boiled 61 gallons of syrup, and the average is 40 gallons of sap for every one gallon of syrup," Prentice said. "So, you have to boil off 39 gallons of water to get one gallon of syrup. That's a lot of boiling, but if you have the right equipment it goes pretty good and pretty fast."

The maple syrup program is almost all volunteer-driven.

Prentice works as the maple syrup program with former volunteer Nurb Leppanen, who has been on the site for as long as Prentice -- 13 years -- but has only been an employee for the last year. Jack Clifffield is one of the most active volunteers at the farm.

improved equipment, improved technique and just a really great season," Prentice said.

"We had more volunteer help this year than in past years, which was also key."

### Volunteer started program

Volunteer John MacInnis started the Tollgate Farm's maple sugar program about 10 years ago.

"He was very instrumental in getting the program going out here," Prentice said. "We had a woodlands manager class, and he was one of the attendees of that class. He and I got to talking about the site and ways to increase people's awareness of forestry and the products you can get. We started talking about maple syrup, and he was very interested."

They started with about a 20-gallon cast aluminum pot on a gas burner, which produced maybe a quart of syrup.

"We burned a lot the first year," Prentice said. "Over time, we've improved and had various volunteers that have donated money and equipment to keep us going."

Now the farm has a nice setup with a small but commercial-grade evaporator with stainless steel storage tanks.

The syrup goes to the volunteers, staff and people who are really involved in the work.

### Want to volunteer?

Those interested in becoming a volunteer at the Michigan State University Tollgate Farm on Meadowbrook Road just north of 12 Mile Road can call (248) 347-3860.

The farm also offers programs and seminars to the public.

### Is it for the kids?

Prentice said it's about 50/50 on which kids like the real maple syrup or the store-bought kind.

"Some kids love the stuff, and the other kids like the corn-based Aunt Jemima," Prentice said.

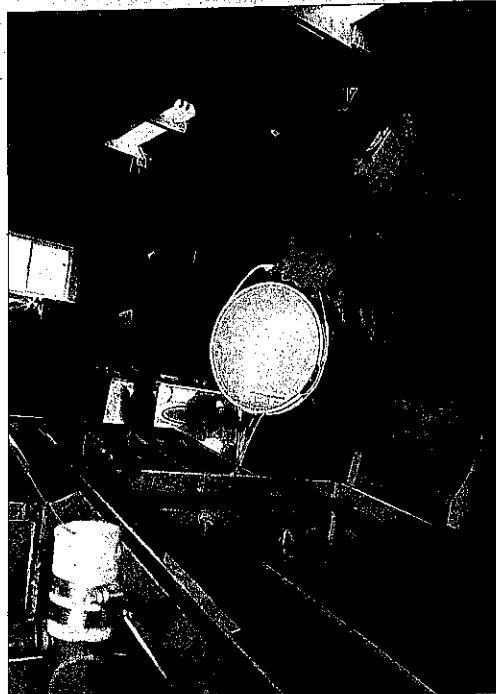
"It's just a different flavor, and this is much flatter, too," he said. "It's just kind of flows over the pancakes rather than it just sitting on top."

And it's the real McCoy, straight from the maple tree.

For more information about joining the approximately 150 volunteers at the MSU Tollgate Farms, call (248) 347-3860.

"We have people from all over southeast Michigan," Prentice said.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. You can reach her by calling (248) 349-1700, Ext. 105, or by e-mail at pfleming@gannett.com.



Tollgate Farm manager Roy Prentice used this shed and stainless steel tanks to boil down sap harvested at the MSU education center to make maple syrup.

**Jumped from 44 to 61**

The highest total in maple syrup production at the farm was previously 44 gallons before this year's record-breaking number.

"It was a combination of

**Bring on the pancakes**

Last Saturday, the farm staff invited volunteers to a special "thank-you" pancake breakfast and farm cleanup after the maple syrup producing season.

## Post office looks to "Stamp Out Hunger" in May

Nation's largest one-day food drive next month

By Ramaz Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Novi letter carriers will be doing a little more than delivering the mail on Saturday, May 13. They will also be collecting

food items to help those in need.

Anelle Thompson, Novi letter carrier, described the event as the 14th annual largest one-day food drive in the nation.

Post offices throughout America, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands will be participating by picking up non-perishable food items from mail boxes.

"All people have to do is put their food out at their mailbox before their regular carrier delivers the mail, and we pick it

up," said Thompson. "Or we might have volunteers come out and pick it up. We also give out thank you cards."

To date, the event has brought in over half a billion pounds of food which gets distributed to different charities in each city.

In Novi, food goes to three different food banks: St. James Catholic Church, Faith Community Church and a private charity called Un'noah House.

All carriers and clerks work off the clock after they finish

their routes. Last year, 11,000 pounds of food was collected in Novi alone. Over 71 billion pounds was collected across the nation.

"Novi has been so generous in the past, it's just unbelievable," said Thompson. "It's just amazing when you see all that food coming in by mail trucks."

The event always takes place during the second Saturday in May because usually local food banks are hit hard during the summer months, and there is a greater need.

"Our motto is 'Stamp Out Hunger,'" said Thompson. "The goal this year is to surpass the 71 million pounds of food collected last year. Novi would also like to surpass the 11,000 pounds it collected. The drive is also backed by United Way, America's Second Harvest, Campbell's Soup and

Val Puc.

St. James Church annually rents a truck and also tries to find anyone in the community who could donate a truck. Faith Community usually brings a couple of vans and a pick-up truck, too.

Ramaz 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.

## City needs census takers

Maryanne Cornelius, city clerk, said 60-80 census enumerators will be needed for the city's mid-decade census in May.

Cornelius has been working with the city's human resources department staff to prepare a job description and letter.

These will be forwarded to the Novi Community School District for distribution to school teachers plus students at Oakland Community College and Schenckel College.

The deadline for submitting an application to be a census enumerator is Friday, April 21.

Pay is \$12 per hour, and applicants must have a valid Michigan driver's license, a good driving record and be at least 18.

City staff members will complete a background check on applicants they propose to hire.

A special meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, at the Novi Civic Center where potential candidates will learn what's expected of them.

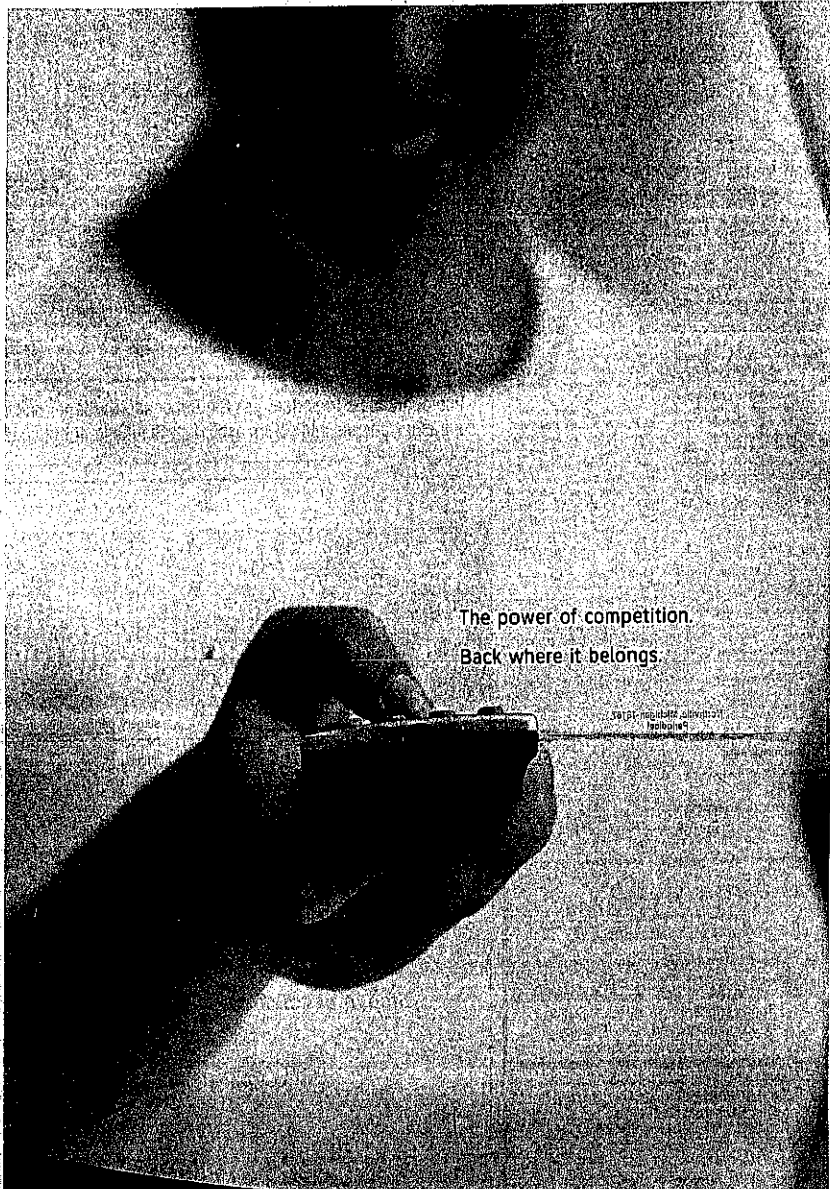
Hiring should be completed by the first week in May, with the Secretary of State's office needing at least two weeks to prepare credentials.

Once hired, census enumerators will need to attend a mandatory meeting from 1-4 p.m. Monday, May 22, in the Novi Civic Center with representatives from the Secretary of State's office.

The door-to-door canvass will begin immediately after the May 22 instructional meeting.

Those interested in becoming a census enumerator can find a job application at [www.ci.novi.mi.us](http://www.ci.novi.mi.us) and submit it via e-mail to Glenn Caldwell at [gcaldwell@ci.novi.mi.us](mailto:gcaldwell@ci.novi.mi.us) or by fax at (248) 735-3684.

For more information, contact the city clerk's office at (248) 347-9456.



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The Chase Farms subdivision entryway received an Eye on Novi award from the Novi Beautification Commission in September 2005. Art Belloni, Chase Farms Association, nominated the entryway.

## Get in gear, gardeners

### Hunt to begin in 'Eye on Novi'

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Ladies and gentlemen, start your mowers. April is the month members of the city of Novi's Beautification Commission will begin their search for the most attractive yards and businesses' landscaping in Novi for 2006.

The contest runs from April through November, according to Moira Robinson, commission chair. "After Easter is when we'll probably see the beginning of beautiful displays," said commission member Barb Greenberg.

The recognition program begins in April and runs through December, with awards being presented throughout the year. "As the year goes along, if we see something that's outstanding, we'll give them an award," Greenberg said.

"So, we really look throughout the whole year. This is just the start of the season." Greenberg said commission members have five categories in which Novi's homes and businesses are judged.

- Design — How creative is it?
- Color — Is it eye-catching?
- Condition of the plant material — Are the plants full and robust?
- Maintenance — Are the beds weed free?

• General appearance — Is it neat, tidy and nice looking?  
Greenberg added that areas should be colorful and be able to be seen by motorists.

"We are mainly looking on the main roads, unless someone calls us," Greenberg noted.

**Public can make nominations**  
There were quite a few recipients of last year's awards that were called

## Renegade Gardener shares what not to do

### These tips work at any setting

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Don Engelbreton is a committed man. He talks about the "slamming down" that's part of many of today's mainstream articles on gardening and that people should not be afraid to learn and get their hands dirty.

The Minnesota native, who lives in the Twin Cities area, was in Novi last weekend for the Home and Garden Show at Rock Financial Showplace. He appeared at the Green Thumb Theater to talk about "The Top 10 Gardening Blunders and How to Avoid Them."

A landscape architect, Engelbreton teaches design basics that stretch beyond the normal how-to books. He says renegade gardeners know the Latin names of their plant friends, and aren't afraid to take risks and be adventurous. (See #4.) As Ivana Trump would say, "Life is not a dress rehearsal."

- We don't test, correct and amend our soils.
- We design and plant garden beds based on flower color combinations.
- We use too few containers, structures, art and other accessories.
- We don't test, correct and amend our soils.
- We design and plant garden beds based on flower color combinations.

A key tip he offered is when designing your yard or business landscaping is to make it curved. "It's more interesting," he said.

Geometric designs are OK if it's the formal English garden look you're trying to achieve, but for most areas, naturally curving landscapes are better.

Engelbreton does a lot of custom stone work in his landscaping business, and he designs paths and gardens by using garden hoses to outline the exterior. "Why do we love nature?" he asked. "It's because there are no straight lines in nature. I think we like to get away from structure."

As for "out with the old and in with the new," Engelbreton said one homeowner client of his lost years of tree growth when he died. "I replaced old trees," shrubs need to be replaced, too," he said.

According to Engelbreton, before 1950, homeowners devoted about 50 percent of their yards to trees. After World War II, "We had the city and developed the suburbs," he said. This changed the mix to two-thirds lawn and one-third land-

and small trees.  
• We plant the wrong plant in the wrong place.  
• We get sucked into taking the easy way out by using too many containers, structures, art and other accessories.

Put something else there," Engelbreton said, such as bird feeders and plants.  
Use small trees, too, which are those considered to be 25 feet or shorter. "We used to do this more, but we've kind of gotten away from it," he said. It's using the theory of bigger is not always better.

"You must first learn the mature width of everything you grow," he said, not just the height.

**Learn plant culture**  
Another essential is learning the plant culture. "What's its sunlight preference? Does it like moist, extra moist or a dry, sandy spot?" Engelbreton said. Ask the nursery, look on the plant tag or get a book.

One of the most important tips the Renegade Gardener offered is plant in contrasting shapes and colors according to foliage not blooms.

The priorities should be foliage, size, bloom and then color. "Blooms only last two to three weeks or maybe four on a few in Michigan. Place your plants on the basis of form and foliage color, and do the same thing when you place your shrubs."

For more information, visit [www.renegadegardener.com](http://www.renegadegardener.com).

### Need more help?

Gardeners can contact the Michigan State University Extension Service by visiting [www.msue.edu](http://www.msue.edu). In Oakland County, soil testing questions can be directed to Linda Smith at (248) 858-0902. Office hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 9:30-10:30 a.m. to call the Master Gardener hotline, call (248) 858-0087. This is a free service.

**Listen to nature**  
Engelbreton said gardeners also need to realize that they need to listen to nature. "If you can't grow grass in an area in 10 years, it's not going to grow there," he said.

Gardeners need to "bounce" their foundation plantings out, as much as eight feet from the home, to create a "nestling look."

Also, swing sets, dog houses, storage sheds and other large items should be pushed out of the middle of the yard and beyond the "nestling line" or borders of landscaped areas.

Have a tiered lawn? Maybe you don't want to plant grass there. "Don't mow that grass hill.

Put something else there," Engelbreton said, such as bird feeders and plants.  
Use small trees, too, which are those considered to be 25 feet or shorter. "We used to do this more, but we've kind of gotten away from it," he said. It's using the theory of bigger is not always better.

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Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. You can reach her by phone at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at [pfleming@gannett.com](mailto:pfleming@gannett.com).

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## Grilling Buddies teach how you can be the envy of your 'hood

### Not Potatoes in Fall

- 1 medium onion
- 2 baking potatoes
- 1 green pepper
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup onion, potatoes and pepper. Add butter. Wrap in foil. Grill on indirect heat (raised grill level above coals) for one hour.

### Barbecue Bonanza

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 inch thick salmon steaks
- Barbecue sauce
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil or salmon. Place steaks on top grill grate with direct heat. Grill 8-10 minutes on each side. Baste with barbecue sauce while grilling.

- 1/2 cup pickled relish
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 cup A-1 Steak Sauce
- 8 drops Tabasco sauce
- 1 cupetchup
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Combine all ingredients in sauce pan. Simmer for 30 minutes and serve. Refrigerate excess.

### By Pam Fleming

OK, You're having the neighbors over for a back yard barbecue, and you don't know what to make.

You want to make something delicious that they'll be talking about the next day — or maybe even the next month — at the water cooler.

But, you don't want it to be "over the top."

You want it to be classic, simple, the real McCoy — maybe something they'd even share with their mom.

Enter the Grilling Buddies, Med Dog & Merrill, who appeared last weekend at the Home and Garden Show's "Barbecue Bonanza" at Rock Financial Showplace.

These Wisconsin characters dish up grilling recipes and humor like they've been doing it since birth, creating a type of synergy only the hungry can admire.

The two self-professed "Cheese Heads" appeared in Novi last week as part of the Home and Garden Show at Rock Financial Showplace. They've presented their hilarious tidbits on grilling for more than 20 years and offer simple grilling recipes.

For instance: Take a raw jalapeno pepper. Slice it lengthwise to create a "jalapeno boat." Fill it with pineapple-flavored or strawberry-flavored cream cheese and place it on the grill (either on or off foil) for 5-7 minutes. (The longer you cook

them, the less hot they become.) Slice in bite-size pieces and serve on toothpicks.

Another simple treat is smoke-flavored cocktail sausages wrapped in pepperoni speared on a toothpick with an olive, pineapple chunk or other fruit, vegetable or meat choice.

Grill 2-3 minutes, depending on the meat choice.

### One for the kids

Another appetizer is "The Italian Bomber" — deli beef rolled with pepperoni and string cheese. Position toothpicks about an inch apart, cut in 1-inch slices and grill for 2-3 minutes.

### Preheat, turn down

A key ingredient to grilling success is preheating the grilling surface. "We like ribs, and they're really in vogue now," they said. "Preheat your grill for five minutes on high, then turn it down to medium. The goal is to not have the smoke trailing down the neighborhood."

Buy fresh shrimp and marinate it in Italian dressing before you place it on the grill. For more information about great grilling, visit Med Dog and Merrill's Web site at [www.maddogandmerrill.com](http://www.maddogandmerrill.com).

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



The Grilling Buddies "Med Dog and Merrill" shared their barbecuing secrets at several humorous seminars last weekend during the Home and Garden Show at Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

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## Wixom businessman to address inventors group next week

### Wearers flip over sunglasses

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Jeff Morton knows what it's like to be a successful inventor.

That's because five years ago he created a line of sunglasses that can be clipped onto a hat.

Now he's president and CEO of Brinz, Clip and Flip Eyewear in Wixom, with a warehouse, three full-time employees and a Web site — [www.brinzequip.com](http://www.brinzequip.com).

Morton will be the featured speaker at the Thursday, April 20, meeting of the Inventors' Association of Metropolitan Detroit.

The group meets monthly September-May in Grosse Pointe and is one of only two inventor groups in the state, the other being in Flint.

"Jeff Morton is a local inventor who has done very well for himself," said Keith Dunlop of the association.

Dunlop says the inventors association, by providing knowledge from inventors like Morton, helps many area entrepreneurs.

"I can't tell you how many successful inventor-speakers have told us 'I wish I would have known about this group,'" he said.

### Broke a pair of sunglasses

Morton said he got the idea for Brinz, Clip and Flip Eyewear purely by accident.

"I used to drive race cars and drove in the Grand Prix four different years on Belle Isle," he said.

"I broke a pair of sunglasses, and long story short, an adjuster clip got glued to one end of them by accident. I have a friend who's a CAD designer, and we just took the idea from there."

They were issued a patent in September 2002.

One of his friends used to own the Vitamin Outlet, and he allowed them to store the sunglasses at no charge. They started with one office and one pal-

rack in the friend's warehouse. "Within a year, we had three offices and a whole row of pallets," Morton said.

When his friend sold the vitamin business, Morton moved his business to Beck Business Park off Beck Road north of I-96.

In 2004, they got a very large order — 150,000 pieces — for Timberwell Racing. "They make chess leotards, and the glasses became a promotional item," Morton explained. The company placed an embroidered hat with Morton's sunglasses into a package with five cans of chew.

"Now, he's brought everything in-house, rather than paying pallet storage fees, and has 5,300 square feet."

"So, now we just pay rent. We save money, and I can control everything under one roof," Morton said. "It was a growth move we were forced into."

### Sales approach \$1 million

Brinz, Clip and Flip Eyewear has grown from \$76,000 in sales its first six months in business to almost \$1 million in sales and is the exclusive eyewear of the Professional Cuddies Association. The sunglasses were even worn by an actor in the "Bad News Bears" movie remake in 2005.

In 2002, the sunglasses were named Softball Magazine's Product of the Year and are endorsed and used by players in the two largest softball associations in the country.

"We just became the flip-up eyewear for Little League Baseball," Morton said.

The firm has a contract with a Livonia company, Lasting Impressions, that does all of Brinz' custom printing and promotion.

"We just got in the Pepsi catalog, and we're doing some stuff for Dick Scott Dodge and Hungry Howie's," Morton said.

He's taking the product national, and was just in Las Vegas in January to attend the Professional Product Industry Association trade show.

Morton said he thought he'd be where he is now three years ago.

"I've really learned quite a bit," he said. "It takes a lot longer than I thought to take a product to retail."

He had a Corvette restoration and performance shop at one time, so he's had successful start-up businesses.

"But to take a new product to retail and educate the consumer on what the product is and how it works without hundreds of thousands of dollars of marketing money behind you is nearly impossible," he said.

CVS pharmacies did a rollout of the sunglasses last year, and Morton's trying to partner with sporting goods representatives and distributors.

Morton claims the sunglasses are indistinguishable, can be personalized and fit on any hat.

"We haven't teamed up with a hat manufacturer yet, but we will," Morton said.

He's also preparing a presentation to Disney, because the company had to recall their current brand of children's sunglasses due to the fact that pain was coming off. Morton has designed a smaller version of his sunglasses for children under age 6.

*Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Nov News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or by e-mail at [pfleming@gannett.com](mailto:pfleming@gannett.com).*

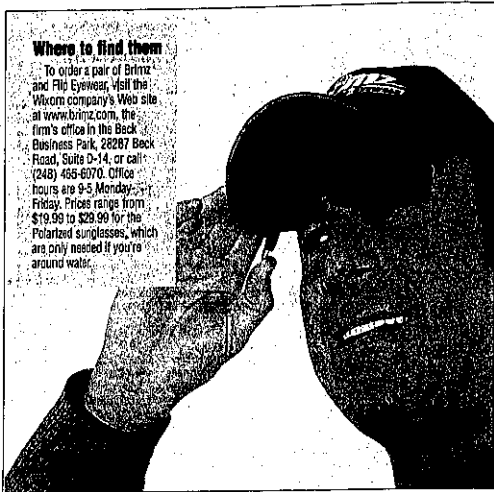


Photo by JOHN HEICHER/Novel News  
Jeff Morton, owner of Novi's Brinz Flip and Clip Eyewear, demonstrates how the ball cap attachable sunglasses operate.

### Where to find them

To order a pair of Brinz and Flip Eyewear, visit the Wixom company's Web site at [www.brinzequip.com](http://www.brinzequip.com), the firm's office in the Beck Business Park, 28287 Beck Road, Suite D-14, or call (248) 466-6070. Office hours are 9-5 Monday-Friday. Prices range from \$19.99 to \$29.99 for the Polarized sunglasses, which are only needed if you're around water.

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## Northville chief coming to Novi

By Maureen Johnston  
GANNETT NEWS SERVICES

Going to the wide-eyed 23-year-old aspiring officer who first reported to Northville Police Department in 1972. James Petres formally announced his retirement after 34 years on the force, the last eight as chief. On April 20, he will start his new job as an inspector and planner for the Novi Police Department.

In a city that boasts a low crime rate, Petres' career accomplishments include establishing a sense of security more than combating criminals, for high profile investigations. He's seen two homicides in 34 years and a handful of headline thefts.

**Service first**  
"To be responsive to the community is important, to be a service organization," Petres said. "At some times in law enforcement, that might sound kind of strange. A lot of times our contact with people is when they're in

situations they prefer not to be in. "I think the things we do we try to do for the good of the community as a whole."  
Even after he unpins his gold badge, Petres and his wife, Sue, will continue to reside in Northville. "As a person, he's a great person," said Capt. Michael Carlson, a 13-year member of the Northville department. He said the chief served as a mentor and role model.



James Petres

"As a chief, you couldn't ask for a nicer, smarter guy. He's been really good to work for."  
Petres wanted his staff as his greatest accomplishment during his tenure. He said he believes the force he assembled served the city as captain, then chief, is his greatest contribution.

Retirement during the past 18 months of the Northville department's three veterans — Petres, Capt. Norm Kubicki and Det. Sgt. Dave Fawcett — means the city police department is embarking on a new era.

"We've still got people who have the fire and out of the job. Throughout the years, he's been drawing stuff out of us as sergeants. Sgt. (Dustin) Krueger and myself, in this department, you do a number of jobs."  
Petres said his job challenges varied. Some tested his experience, others required waiting through administrative red tape.  
Petres recalled his department's response to a plane crashing into trees along Eight Mile Road in 1983.  
"You can plan for that, study for that, train for that and when something like that happens it's a whole new experience," he said. "Dealing with federal agencies, things like that."  
Administratively, the (establishing a community public safety) department was a challenge," he said. "We had our direction to make it work. I think it's worked out well."  
Petres began eyeing the chief's chair early in his career, not long after turning from part-time dispatcher to full-time officer.  
"I had that in the back of my mind," he said. "I want to be chief."

## POLICE REPORT

### Kalamazoo woman arrested

A 22-year-old Kalamazoo woman was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 1:56 a.m. on Feb. 11 at Novi and Galway roads.

An officer was patrolled in the east to Saddle Creek Apartments on Novi Road when he saw a southbound vehicle that appeared to be exceeding the speed limit. Radar clocked the vehicle traveling 50 mph in a 40 mph zone. Upon initiating a traffic stop, the woman was smoking a cigarette, which the officer asked her to extinguish. While talking to her, he noticed an odor of alcohol, that her eyes were bloodshot and glossy and her speech slurred.

The woman admitted to consuming three bottles of beer in Detroit before entering a concert at the State Theater. She then said she had three or four more beers at Fifth Avenue Ballroom in Novi.

A breath sample yielding a blood alcohol level of .23 percent.

**Theft by Library Pub**  
A 45-year-old Novi man had almost \$9,000 worth of electronics equipment stolen from his

vehicle between 11:30 p.m. March 14 and 1:30 a.m. March 15 in the parking lot of the Library Pub on Grand River Avenue.

The man told police that when he returned to his blue Chevy Tahoe parked on the far north end of the lot he noticed the right rear passenger side window had been smashed.

Stolen equipment, valued at \$3,765, was in a black leather equipment bag. The man told police he was doing some work for Pinberton Services and needed to store the equipment in his vehicle.

**Construction site theft**  
A 42-year-old Macomb man reported a theft that took place between 12 p.m. March 2 and 6 a.m. March 3 in Lenox Park construction area at 13 Mile Road and the M3 Connector.

Stolen items included about 170 sheets of plywood valued at \$2,380 and 20-30 10-foot 2 by 4 studs valued at \$150.  
The items were taken from three different lot sites. Tire tracks at each site showed that the truck used to remove the stolen goods was a pickup or small flatbed truck.

# PEOPLE

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

## ENGAGEMENT



Sokloski-Parak

Richard and Vivian Sokloski of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Renee Sokloski to Travis James

Parak, son of Dennis and Nona Parak of Shelby Township. The bride-elect is a 2000 graduate of Northville High School. She is a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University earning a bachelor of accounting degree and a 2005 graduate of Walsh College earning a master of accounting degree. She is currently employed as an Auditor for KPMG.

The groom-elect is a 1999 graduate of Eisenhower High School and Macomb Mathematics, Science and Technology Center. He is also a 2004 graduate of Kettering University earning a bachelor of mechanical engineering degree. He is currently employed as a Chassis Engineer for Nissan.

A September 2006 wedding is planned.

## IN THE SERVICE

Navy Airman Chelsea M. Herbert, granddaughter of Virginia F. Herbert of Walled Lake was recently promoted to her current rank upon graduation from recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

Herbert received the early promotion for outstanding performance during all phases of the training cycle. Training which included classroom study and practical instruction on travel customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

Herbert is a 2005 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School.

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# EDUCATION



Courtesy photo  
Novi High School Japanese Teacher Noriko Rosen is draped by students Elizabeth Gee (left) and Margaret Chan. Gee took second place in the Japanese Language Speech Contest at YAZAKI, North America in Canton, and Chan took third place.

## Two Japanese students chosen as finalists in speech contest

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

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.

Noriko Rosen has some gifted students in her Japanese class at Novi High School.

The proof is in their accomplishments, as seniors Elizabeth Gee and Margaret Chan took second and third place, respectively, out of 65 Japanese language speech contest competitors last month. They were the only two Novi students to compete.

"Neither could get first place, but it was the first time for both of them," said Rosen. "Both did such a wonderful job."

Gee and Chan both memorized five-minute-long essays in Japanese.

"The contest is very complicated," said Rosen. "Some couldn't memorize it, but our students did. The questions the judge asked were very hard, but for Elizabeth, he said 'very smooth.'"

"The two had to answer all questions in Japanese. They each received DVD/CDMP3 and 10-inch portable DVD/CDMP3 players for their accomplishments."

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## Who is Novi Middle School's biggest loser?

Teachers copy hit TV show in hopes of losing weight

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

It's not that Paul Hoffman can never find a spot in the Novi Middle School parking lot.

On the contrary, there are plenty of open spaces. But he still insists on parking his car at the Target store down the street and walking to and from school each day.

Hoffman, eighth grade math teacher, is participating in a contest that fellow educator Chris Lancy started calling "biggest loser."

Based on the hit reality television show of the same name, teachers at the middle school have formed five teams of nine and are competing against each other in trying to lose weight. The biggest prize is everybody participating should lose weight by the end of the school year, but there is a small wager which will benefit the team that loses the most as well.

"I started it on April 3 because I've been fighting my weight loss for a couple years now," said Lancy, industrial technology teacher. "I e-mailed the staff to see if anybody would be interested in doing it, and I got a huge response."

Currently 45 staff members are participating and weigh in once a week. Lancy said his concept was to have them all motivate each other.

"That's the biggest thing, motivation," said Lancy. "It has made a big change in the staff already. Even in the first week teachers were walking in the school together, and a bunch of us got together to play basketball after school."

Staff paid \$20 a piece to participate. Hoffman, who like Lancy, wanted to lose weight, decided to do it because it would help him keep focused. He got the idea to park off campus from his old job in Texas.

"I used to teach there, and it was the same sort of thing," he said. "The weather was much nicer there, so pretty much the



Photo by JOHN HEIGER/Novi News

Novi Middle School teacher Paul Hoffman, one of the many instructors engaged in their "biggest loser" contest, is watching his calories and burning them by parking at a shopping mall a half mile away and walking to class.

whole school year I would park at the other end of a park and walk through it to get to school. It was a pleasant way to start and end the day, and I got some exercise."

Hoffman decided to do the same thing here, but instead of a park, he now leaves his car at a department store. He said there are sidewalks almost the whole way, but not quite.

"I'm not the best at keeping myself motivated," said Hoffman. "This forces me into getting exercise every day, and I actually feel more alert in the morning. It's a pretty brisk, 15 to 20 minute walk. I have a long drive, so it's good to be active."

Though nobody has taken him on yet, Hoffman has suggested that his teammates follow in his footsteps. No pun intended.

"The theme to this school year is health and wellness, and I thought this would be a great opportunity," said Lancy. "I really did it for selfish reasons. I need some sort of competition in my life. I thought this would be a good idea to throw out to the staff. I'm glad it's working out."

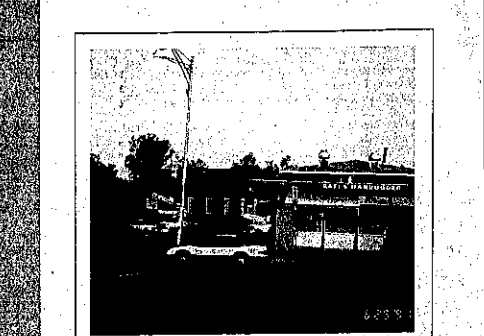
Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@gannett.com.

MY HOMETOWN

# NOVI

PHOTO CONTEST

The Novi Historical Commission and the Novi News are looking for photographs that best represent Novi. Judges will select the top three who will win \$100, \$50 or \$25.



Shown is Mary M. Drafts's "Best Hamburgers in Town" Deadline for entries is Nov. 3.

Go to [www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com)  
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SCHOOL BRIEFS

3 to Blue Lake

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp will send six performing groups to Europe this summer where they will tour six countries from the Mediterranean Sea to the North Pole.

Nearly 350 talented participants and staff will participate in the West Michigan summer arts school's 5th Annual European Tour. Blue Lake's International Exchange Program began in 1969.

The countries where one or more Blue Lake group will visit and present concerts during June and July include Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Italy. Each group will visit seven communities in two or more countries while in Europe and will tour separately.

In return, Blue Lake and nearly 50 Michigan communities will host eleven European groups that will visit Michigan in April-October.

Three Novi residents, Rachel Manela, Gwendolyn Greer and John Denton, are among the performers participating in this tour. Rachel is a member of the 2006 Blue Lake Southern Winds. Gwendolyn is a member of the 2006 Blue Lake Northern Winds. John is a member of the 2006 Blue Lake Jazz Band.

The other groups include a 79-member Symphony Orchestra, a 65-member Northern Wind Ensemble, a 78-voice choir and a

42-member Ballet Ensemble

Member of the six student groups are talented juniors and senior high school students from throughout Michigan and 19 other states. These 350 participants include 250 from Michigan.

Prior to departing, the six groups will have intensive rehearsals at Blue Lake. The Symphony Orchestra, Northern Wind Ensemble and Southern Wind Ensemble also will present concerts in Michigan and Illinois before leaving for Europe.

Energy grants awarded

Novi teachers Maryann Dreske, Frank Conrad and Maggie Gonzalez-Sheeran recently received awards from the DTE Energy Foundation's Mini-Grants for Educators program. The awards were made in partnership with Oakland Schools and the Oakland Science, Mathematics and Technology Center.

Dreske, a teacher at Novi High School, will use her \$200 grant to help her students better understand the business side of the energy industry. Conrad and Gonzalez-Sheeran, both teachers at Novi Middle School, will share a \$250 grant for a project that will enhance their students' awareness of water-related environmental issues.

The DTE Energy Foundation's Mini-Grants for Educators program was established in 1990 to

promote science and energy studies for K-12 students. Since then, the program has awarded more than \$700,000 to public and private school teachers in DTE Energy's service territory. "This year the program will award more than \$35,000 to Michigan teachers for creative energy-related projects to supplement their lesson plans," said Carol Moore, DTE Energy Education and Community Relations representative. "These grants provide funding for special projects that school budgets typically cannot afford."

To apply for the mini-grants, teachers submitted proposals to their intermediate school district for consideration. Judges looked for projects that encouraged problem-solving, decision-making and critical thinking, while helping students understand energy and the energy industry.

ON CAMPUS

Novi resident Allyson Connelly was named to the Dean's list for 2005 calendar year at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Ind.

Novi resident Aaron McDowell was among the graduates of Valparaiso University during December 2005 commencement exercises.



Third in state The Novi High School Winter Guard placed third out of 16 guards in its class at the Michigan Color Guard Circuit State Championships. The students are under the direction of Betsy Richards, and assistants Amanda Swanson and Kelly Williams. They scored an 80.65 and received a bronze medal. Pictured are (l to r, back) Katie Anne Appleman, Ashley Foster, Sara Snyder, Sarah Schreitmueller, Linda Janik, Suzanne Wall, Alex Smith and Angela Hong; (third row) Marlene Price, Alicia Binns, Michelle Behr, Jackie Appleman, Amanda Portuesi, Janna Lodwick and Julia Reed; (second row) Simi Oyeyeye, Kaitlyn Hinman, Amrit Singh, Lauren Murray, Megan VanDusen, Jennifer Phillips, Katie Dougherty and Patricia Schultz; and (front row) Lizette Baeza, Laura Janik, Angela Derrick, Amber Aschwanden, Jeannie Liu, Kitty Gasaway and Kim Zerio.

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SENIORS

Remembered always

Fox Run resident leaves legacy behind

By Tracy Mishler RECORD STAFF WRITER

Arthur Brock will never forget the in-depth conversations he shared with his dad. The 38-year-old Colorado resident came back to Michigan to say one last good-bye to his dad, Dr. Bernard Brock, before he died of a staph infection of the heart valve last Friday at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He was 73.

"A lot of people will miss my dad," Brock said. "He was very caring and generous man. I think he had a lot of adventures ahead of him."

Brock taught at Wayne State University for 35 years and part-time at Oakland University in his retirement. The Fox Run resident was born in Bristol, Ind. and came to Michigan in 1966. He served in the Army during the Korean War and was in the counter-intelligence corps for two years.

He was discharged in 1955. Brock attended Illinois State University and received his bachelor's degree in speech communication. He also attended Northwestern University for both his master's degree and Ph.D. in rhetoric and speech communication.

"Bernie was a public intellectual and excellent teacher," said colleague Shea Howell, chair of the Department of Rhetoric Communication and Journalism at Oakland University. "Bernie created a style of teaching that engaged students in conversation. He didn't believe in lecturing; he preferred dialogue, and he was a master of it."

Brock's long-time companion, Joan Leininger, said he was highly informed, brilliant and extremely caring. "He set high standards for his students and helped them to achieve their goals," said Leininger.



Joan Leininger (left) and Dr. Bernard Brock were together for 25 years before Brock died of a staph infection of the heart valve.

achieve their goals," said Leininger, of West Bloomfield. "Even in his retirement, he was still teaching. He was going to give a speech at Fox Run in a few weeks about his book, 'Making Sense of Political Ideologies: The Power of Language in Democracy.'"

Saying good-bye Leininger said if her best friend could say anything now, "he would say he is at peace."

"There is a big hole now," she said. "But, he went out with a blaze of glory with his new book." Leininger said Brock was a lover of jazz and nature and enjoyed golfing and traveling with the Nomads.

"We'll miss his humor," said Fox Run resident Pearl Holforty. "He was a lot of fun to be around, and that's what I'll remember him by."

Holforty said she and her husband, Cliff, traveled with Brock and Leininger. She said the two couples became good friends over the years. "Bernie was always an enjoyable person to be with, both in the

language world and global world," Holforty said. "He had a lot of insight, and we will miss him."

Brock was also an active member of the First Church of Christ Scientist in Birmingham. "He was an extremely generous man, both personally and professionally," said Wayne State colleague Jack Lessenberry. "He was always a teacher and was a giant in his profession."

"Everyone at Wayne State University will miss him," Lessenberry added. Brock is survived by his son, Arthur Brock; daughter, Leslie Brock; a sister, two grandchildren, and Leininger's children: Julie Pycior, Gale Snyder and Bob Leininger.

A memorial service was held last Saturday at the William R. Hamilton Bell Chapel in Birmingham. A second memorial will be held 1 p.m. April 23 at St. Andrew's church at Wayne State University.

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

Monday 4/17 9 a.m. Stretch and Strength 10 a.m. Body Recall 11:30 a.m. Goodie Lady - last day noon Lunch 12:30 p.m. Pinochle 2-2:30 p.m. Tuesday 4/18 8:30 a.m. Panera Bread 9 a.m. Line Dance 10 a.m. Golf League Orientation Meeting 10 a.m. Asian Pacific 10:30-11:30 a.m. Bookmobile

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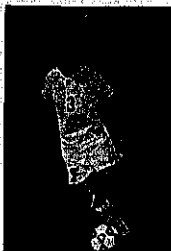
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# SPORTS

### BASELINE SHOWDOWN

Novi's defense helped stop Northville's offensive soccer power last Friday. — Page 2B

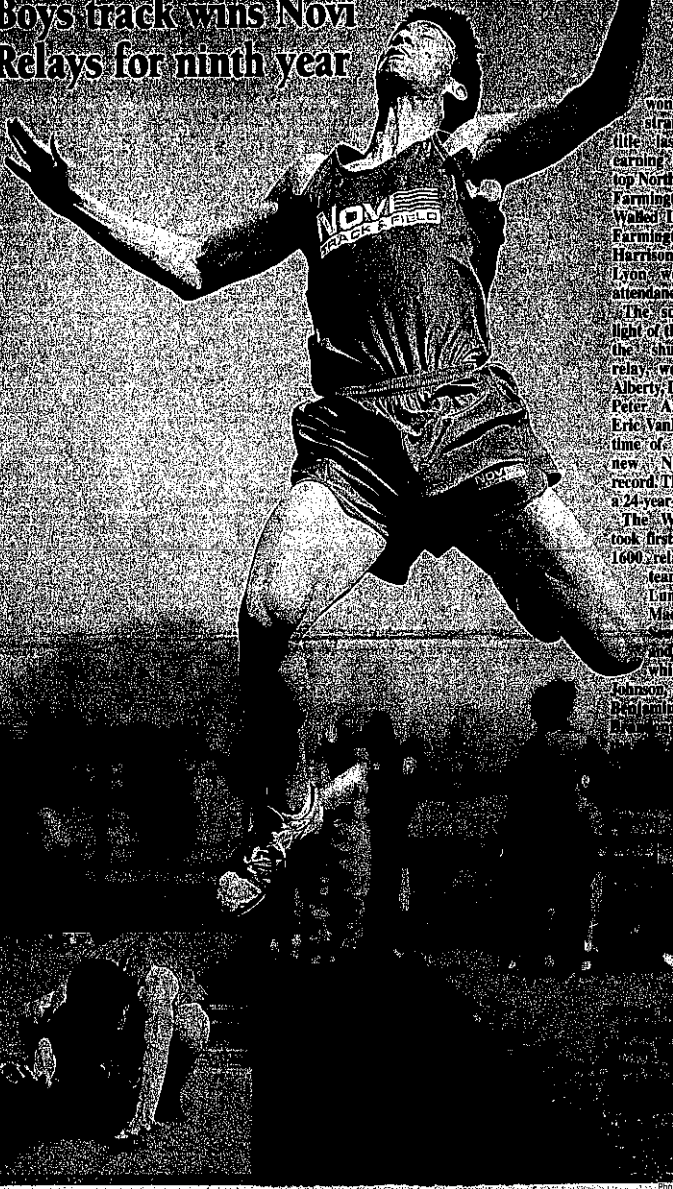


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Thursday, April 13, 2006

## JUMPING FOR JOY

### Boys track wins Novi Relays for ninth year



The boys track team won its ninth straight Novi Relays title last Saturday, earning 88 points to top Northville (70) and Farmington Hills (73). Walled Lake Central, Farmington Hills, Harrison and South Lyon were also in attendance.

The squad's highlight of the day was in the hurdle relay won by Chris Albert, Dan Coleman, Peter Andrews and Eric Vanbuhler. Their time of 1:03.31 is a new Novi Relays record. The time broke a 24-year-old record.

The Wildcats also took first in the 4-by-1600 relay with the team of Josh Lumley, Kevin MacDonough, and Mike Wheat.

Eric Johnson, Andrew Lee, Benjamin Perry and

## Wild 'Stangs take a tumble

The Michigan High School Athletics Association has managed to do both things yet again.

The MHSAA, as it's more commonly referred to, recently made a near-blanket decision regarding cooperative teams between high schools. The decision, handed down March 27, means the end of the Northville-  
**Sam Eggleston**  
Novi gymnastics team known as the Wild 'Stangs.



Neither Northville or Novi athletic department staff have sat down with potential future gymnasts to let them know.

Novi's athletic director Curt Ellis said that's because the two schools are busy trying to figure out what their options are. The future, unfortunately, is bleak. "Our options are having independent teams or shutting down," Ellis said.

With only six returning gymnasts combined coming back next year, it's likely neither school will be able to muster enough support to host a team. That means the girls who have put in three years of hard work and have been loyal to their programs are potentially going to be left out in the cold.

This isn't the fault of Novi or Northville. In fact, all the blame can be pointed at the MHSAA in Lansing.

The executive committee that made the decision for the Northville-Novi request to continue their co-op program was comprised of Paul Ellinger (Chubbuck), Keith Eldred (Williamston), William Newkirk (Meridian), Karen Leinar (Benzonia) and Dan Flynn (Escanaba). MHSAA staff members present included Tom Rashid and Jack Roberts (Goshen).

So these people made the decision to shut down a dwindling cooperative program. These people who have probably never met any of the girls on the Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team or their coaches. They did sit down with the two athletic directors, but that encounter wasn't enough to persuade them.

They're not bad folks. Dan Flynn, for example, is a great guy and an inspiring coach. He has led the Escanaba Eskymos football team for a number of years and was one of the first coaches I ever had the enjoyment of interviewing.

continued on 8B

Novi long jumper Eric Zhao leaps into the air during the Novi Relays Saturday. INSET: Zhao gets a face-full of dirt with his landing.

## Lofgren enjoys leadership role with girls track

By Sam Eggleston  
Sports writer

Allison Lofgren is not your typical high school senior.

A girls track captain, member of the marching band and vice president of the German Club, Lofgren has found ways to stay busy during her senior year while everyone else is busy trying to avoid extra work.

"But, Lofgren doesn't mind a bit. She's hard at work, doing the things she loves and that's what keeps her happy."

"I really enjoy being on the track team," Lofgren said. "When it's spring, track is basically my life."

"And that's nearly a literal statement. Lofgren takes extra time out of her day to put in extra practice in the events

"I really enjoy being on the track team. When it's spring, track is basically my life."

Allison Lofgren  
Novi Girls Track Captain

she excels at. The hurdles, the 4-by-100 relay, the high jump and the long jump. When she's not working on her game, she's helping the underclassmen work on theirs.

"We have a lot of new athletes participating in track for the first time," said Novi girls track coach Martina Reid. "She helps the younger athletes get prepared for their events and makes sure that they have their steps for the meet."

Lofgren is well aware what it's like to start something new. Having run hurdles since seventh grade, she was surprised when she was asked to try the long jump her freshman year. The year after, she was asked to participate in the high jump.

The two new events ended up working out well for Lofgren, who placed in the long jump. Last year, she advanced to the state finals and earned a career-best leap of 16 feet 7.5 inches in the event.

continued on 8B



Novi senior Allison Lofgren set her personal record in the high jump.



Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

Novi's Emily Esbrook moves the ball against Northville last Friday.

# Novi topples Mustangs

### Wildcats earn 2-0 win despite injuries; weather

By Sam Eggleston

**SPORTSWRITER**

The Novi Wildcats soccer team didn't let the cold or the rain to slow their march toward victory last Friday.

The squad, coached by Brian O'Leary, fought through injuries and uncomfortable weather to show the Northville Mustangs the Baseline rivalry is alive and well.

The Wildcats snagged a 2-0 victory on their home field in a non-conference showdown between two of the state's top-ranked teams.

"If you think it was frustrating for them out there, it's a lot more frustrating over here," Northville coach Ron Meteyer said.

Rain soaked the field earlier in the day and the 7 p.m. start time was greeted with wind and cold temperatures. Fans were huddled under blankets and coats and hot cocoa was being served constantly at the concessions stand.

But they were there because it was a game no one wanted to miss.

The Novi Wildcats notched the first goal of the game just three minutes into the contest as junior forward Stephanie Crawford received a clean pass from the middle of the Northville defense and punched it into the back of the net for the 1-0 lead.

The Northville defense buckled down for the next 22 minutes before Crawford once again found herself in scoring position. A split pass from Stephanie Janssens set Crawford up for the quick shot and the 2-0 lead to end the scoring on the night.

Despite several more chances throughout the remainder of the contest, neither team was able to add an additional goal to the final tally.

"The real story of the game was the outstanding play by our defense," said O'Leary.

Kristine Chalkos, Jessica Barni, Katie Chalkos, Laura Marchioni and Shannon Cody were the mainstays of the defense. The Mustangs fell to 3-2 overall, though they're 1-0 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Novi is undefeated with a 4-0 record.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at [saggleston@gannett.com](mailto:saggleston@gannett.com).

# Novi baseball splits weekend doubleheader

**Baseball**

The Novi Wildcats and Northville Mustangs split a doubleheader Saturday morning. Northville won the first game 5-4, while Novi won the second by the same score.

Novi pitcher Brandon Schwanz recorded the win. The Wildcats record is now 4-3 overall and 1-0 in the Kensington Valley Conference.

The Wildcats defeated the Livonia Stevenson Spartans 12-9 last week.

Man Simpson went 2-for-3 with three walks and Brandon Schwanz was 2-for-3 with two walks. Brett Glover went 3-for-4 with two runs and one run batted in and Steve Hart was a perfect 5-for-5 with three runs batted in. Pitcher Matt Hohenst recorded the save for Novi.

**Golf**

Last Friday, Novi traveled to Hartland to play in the Hartland Invitational. The Wildcats took fourth out of 14 teams even though they faced unrelenting weather. Akamatsu (89) and captain Abby Gruelich (102) combined for a team score of 87. Missy Broadwell (110) and Lindsey Colek (113) combined for a 103 and captain Breana Quinley (100) and Yoo-Jin Kim (109) combined for a 94.

The team score of 284 was good for fourth place. Just three strokes behind the team Hartland Eagles who finished third on the day. Natalie Krick (46) and Megan Wentz (50) played exhibition for 9 holes.

The Wildcats also played at the Grrosse Ile Invitational. Novi placed 14th out of a 20-team field in the competition. Akamatsu (92), Krick (97), Megan Wentz (105), Gruelich (113), Dana Czepak (124) and Stella Chung (134) scored.

**Lacrosse**

Novi held off a late flurry of offense to clinch a win in the 2006 Lacrosse Home Opener, 15-14 against Northville last Friday.

The game featured high winds, high powered offense and plenty of high dives on the sidelines.

Though the score doesn't reflect it, Novi's formidable first string offensive line of John Favrotte, Bobby Watts, Scott Moran, George Reigel, Scott Smith and Travis Blackledge dominated the game, seeming to score at will.

Smith started by hitting early in the first half with a feed from Favrotte. Ann Arbor answered quickly and scored again to take the lead. That would be the last time they would be on top. Bobby Watts tied it up midway through the period and scored his second of the period quickly after a pass from Reigel.

Favrotte scored on a give and go with Craig Howell and added his second, unassisted. While short-handed, Ann Arbor persevered the defense and scored on a rebound after a save by goalie Eric Hepler. Watts scored his third of the period coming around the back of the net with a quick release.

Not to be outdone, Favrotte answered with his third on a pass from Watts while a man up. Ann Arbor scored twice more and the first came to a close with Novi up 7-5.

The second period saw the offense slow up a bit. Watts scored his fourth from Favrotte while a man up. Travis Blackledge scored his first on pass from Moran. Ann Arbor managed to slip another one in past Hepler and the half came to a close with Novi leading 9-8.

In the third, Novi opened the gap a little with a goal from Reigel. Then, Jimmy McCusker added one from Mike Kolis. Smith rang the bell for a second time with a goal on a pass from Favrotte. Ann Arbor once again managed to sneak a couple of goals in to keep it close before Favrotte scored (fourth) unassisted and Watts scored (fifth) on a pass from Smith. At the end of the third, Novi led 14-11.

In the fourth, the wind picked up. The temperature dropped and the snow started flying, but the game went on. Ann Arbor scored midway through the quarter to cut the lead to two. Then they scored again to cut it one.

Watts gave Novi an insurance goal (sixth) assisted by Reigel that proved to be the key goal of the game. Ann Arbor scored once more to close the gap back to one with minutes left. With under a minute remaining, Ann Arbor had possession in the Novi zone when Rick Shafer intercepted a pass behind the net and controlled the ball until time expired.

In other action, Novi defeated Hartland 12-3 on the Eagles' field. Howell and Smith each had three goals for Novi (3-1). Hartland is 2-2.

her drive," competitiveness and team involvement. She has been named a 100% with an ankle injury that makes her less than 100% physically."

Freshman Emily Hall has also jumped right into competing for varsity positions and contributing immediately to the program. She has run both the 4x100m and the 4x200m for Novi and is working to be the number one 400 meter person on the team.

Along with the up and coming contributors from the springing group, the Wildcats return some solid field event individuals and distance runners.

Senior Allison Lofgren, who represented Novi at the state meet last year in the long jump, is representing the team again. She placed first in the Northville meet and third in the Pinckney meet. She is also mentoring younger athletes and helping them become better in the long jump.

Junior Andrea Krumer is the second returning long jumper for Novi. She placed second in the Northville meet. Besides scoring points in long jump, she also scored points in the distance area. She was second at the Northville meet in the 3,200 meters and second at Pinckney in the mile.

Senior Meghan Bannatt leads Novi's distance group. She ran a 12:16 on a cold evening at the Pinckney meet to help Novi sweep the 2 mile, with freshman Laura Sheeran scoring second and Senior Emily Barton scoring third. Bannatt also helped lead in the 1,600 meters at Pinckney.

Other strong distance performers were given by Shannon Wagner in the 800 m and Erin Haynes in the 1,600 meters.

"Kim Zerjo, a junior thrower, is doing a great job of throwing for us," said Reid. "She scored first in the shot put and discus at the Northville meet and second in the discus at the Pinckney meet against a very strong throwing group from Pinckney."

Lastly, in the high jump, Reid led the team in showing promise with two new members to the track program. Freshman Heather Arimsk won the high jump against Northville and scored third against Pinckney. She jumped 4'7" and 4'6" respectively. Also, sophomore Shannon Sparrow scored third place against Northville and displays a natural ability to improve in the high jump.

"All in all, while both meets were a loss, the coaches saw a lot of areas that our team can improve on, a great effort from the girls, and great sportsmanship by all the competitors," said Reid.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

No sports scheduled during spring break. For complete schedules, please visit [www.novinews.com](http://www.novinews.com).

## HEARTFELT AND UPROARIOUS!

With stunning, state-of-the-art graphics THE WILD is already a leading contender for the year's best animated film.

# Vaulter have impact with Novi track squad

**By Courtney Ratkowiak**

**SPORTSWRITER**

It was late at night, the KVC championship was on the line. Under the stadium lights, athletes from all eight schools watched Novi pole vaulters soar to victory and secure a league title for their team.

Two years later, the high-exposure victory has remained the highlight of Dan Coleman and Chris Machisak's high school track careers. This season, the four seniors in the pole vault — Coleman, Machisak, Chris Alberty, and Brad Larson — are continuing to score points under pressure while attempting to improve individual records.

Coleman and Alberty are four-year pole vaulters, while Larson and Machisak began participating in the event as sophomores. During their years in high school track, the seniors have had the opportunity to watch the number of athletes in the event double as interest has increased.

"We've made it popular," Coleman said, smiling. "My freshman year, I think we had 5 or 6 (pole vaulters). It's grown over the years."

Machisak said that being a part of a small group on a large track team has been one of the benefits of participating in the pole vault.

"A lot of the time, it's the people that make it a lot of fun," he said. "I think it's nice because you get to know everybody better in your specific event."

"All four of the seniors have a really good eye for each other's abilities and talents and help each other out a lot," varsity track coach Bob Smith said. "Their strength is in the numbers."

Although Coleman and Machisak currently participate in multiple track and field events, they agreed that the pole vault is their favorite activity because of its unconventionality.

"You take a stick, you run really fast at a metal box, and then you fling yourself over a bar that's however many feet in the air," Machisak said. "Basically, that's the way people view it."

"It's just the idea of being upside down and having to trust the pole to do the work, and hope that you're not going to come down on your head," Coleman added.

Early in the season, the seniors' competitive success has been largely determined by the intensity of off-season conditioning.

"It's a good pole vaulting, you really have to dedicate 12 months of the year (to the event)," Smith explained. "The difference between some of them was how much time they were able to put in. Alberty dives in the winter, so he wasn't able to do any pole vaulting. Machisak has, by far, spent the most time, but Coleman has also gone to several indoor meets and qualified for the indoor state championships. Larson was also in the picture, focusing during the winter."

At the end of last season, Coleman, at 13-feet-0, was Novi's top pole vaulter. Machisak's personal record was 12-8, while Alberty and Larson vaulted 12-6 and 11-10, respectively.

However, Machisak reached 13-6 during the winter indoor track season, unofficially breaking the 13-1 Novi High School record. This season, Coleman and Machisak are both hoping to surpass the school record during a varsity meet. In addition, both seniors are aiming to become All-State by finishing in the top eight at the state championships in June.

"I'd like to see them all qualify for the state finals. Right now, it looks like Machisak, Coleman, Alberty, and Larson, in that order," Smith said. "I've been already gone to states (Coleman and Alberty, last season), and one is, statistically, the best (Machisak). I think going to state meet and placing in the state meet is a very distinct possibility."

"We're going to really miss them, and not just because of their scoring. We're going to miss their coaching ability, their leadership in the event. When those types of athletes graduate, there's a void. They're going to leave a legacy. Their stamp, their signature, will be with us for a long time."



Allison Lofgren approaches the high jump pit, trying to reach 5-feet.

# Lofgren: College track in her future

**continued from 1B**

This year she hopes to make a repeat trek to the finals and perhaps break the Novi High School record of 17-5 while she's at it.

In the high jump, Lofgren has been doing well. Last Saturday she set her personal record with a jump of 4-feet-9-inches.

"I was really happy," said Lofgren, who had her own cheering section of underclassmen gathered next to the pit. "It was great to have them there. They're so full of energy and that just gives you ready to go."

Lofgren's track and field abilities will hopefully continue to be refined this year and beyond when she takes them to compete at Adrian College. There, she hopes to study interior design.

"It's just something I really enjoy," Lofgren said about her field of choice. "I got interested in it when I read my room. I just loved it so much that I start ed researching it."

When Lofgren isn't busy at the track or working with her other extracurricular activities, she can sometimes be found expressing her artistic side by working on scrapbooks. She also takes time to hang out with her friends and family.

With Spring Break starting today, Lofgren is making sure to head south to spend time with her best friend of all — her sister, Jessica, who lives in Ft. Lauderdale.

When she gets back, she'll be a little bit more in tune to the Florida sun, but Lofgren will be just as focused and determined as ever.

"I've set goals for myself," she said of going back to the state meet and setting a new school record. "Now, I have to get them."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at [saggleston@gannett.com](mailto:saggleston@gannett.com).



The members of the Spartan Aquatic Club are all smiles about their recent performances.

# Spartans have great state showing

It's been a heck of a year to be a Spartan swimmer that is.

The Spartan Aquatic Club is currently going through a rebuilding stage, but that wasn't evident with this season's results.

Starting the 2005 swim year, which began the day after Labor Day, the Spartan Aquatic Club had only 37 swimmers on their team. Only 27 of the 37 swimmers were under the age of 12 and, of those 27, only 11 swimmers had been swimming for a year or more.

Despite those numbers, the team was determined to show that it could compete against the much larger swim teams in the state. The Spartans finished 17th out of the 57 teams competing at the State Championship.

The season got off to an unfortunate start for one of the team's top swimmers, Maranda Buba, 10 years old, injured her shoulder in a boating accident the day before practice began. She lost half the practice season when she was not able to begin practicing until late December after she finished her physical therapy sessions.

Knowing she put herself behind her competi-

tion made her even more determined to get back in shape. Not only did she want to accomplish goals she set out for herself but she had teammates that were depending on her for the relay team.

One of those teammates that kept telling Buba to get going was her younger sister, Mallory. Mallory is 8 years old and is an accomplished swimmer in her own right. Mallory was one of only two 8 year old girls in the state who qualified to compete in individual races at the championship. She would often remind her sister that the team needed her.

All the encouraging served both Buba and the team well. Buba finished second in the 100 IM and 50 Breast, third in the 50 Fly, fourth in the 100 Breast and fifth in the 50 Free and 100 Fly. Buba, along with her sister, was part of the 200 Free Relay and 200 Medley Relay which finished third in both races.

All the encouraging served both Buba and the team well. Buba finished second in the 100 IM and 50 Breast, third in the 50 Fly, fourth in the 100 Breast and fifth in the 50 Free and 100 Fly. Buba, along with her sister, was part of the 200 Free Relay and 200 Medley Relay which finished third in both races.

Mallory also finished 21st in the 100 Fly and 31st in the 50 Fly. The other key members of the relay team were Mandy Washko and Catherine Cui.

Washko, 9 years old, had a fantastic meet

herself. She finished seventh in the 50 Free, eighth in the 100 Free, ninth in the 500 Free, 10th in the 200 Free, 14th in the 100 IM and 16th in the 50 Breast.

The fourth member of the accomplished relay team was Catherine Cui, who finished 10th in the 100 Back, 13th in the 100 IM, 14th in the 50 Breast, 17th in the 50 back, 19th in the 200 IM and 22nd in the 200 Free.

The boys on the team were also about to let the girls get all of the attention. Andrew Ao and Kevin Hu both qualified to compete at the championship meet.

Even though Andrew has only been swimming for a year and a half, he had a sensational meet and finished 19th in the 50 Free, 12th in the 100 Breast, 13th in the 50 Breast, 17th in the 50 Fly, 19th in the 100 Free and 25th in the 100 Fly.

The Spartans are looking to add swimmers to allow them to improve their finish at the state meet next year.

# TUMBLE: Wild 'Stangs get death sentence thanks to MHSAA decision

**continued from 1B**

The decision is made; the judgment passed. The Wild 'Stangs sentence is death.

And their decisions of jump ship. The latter decision unfortunately would dismiss these schools from state playoff competition.

The decision is made; the judgment passed. The Wild 'Stangs sentence is death. The MHSAA has played judge, jury and executioner in this case. At least, Northville and Novi can muster independent teams. At worst, the gymnasts who hoped to finish their careers representing their schools won't have that chance.

"It's hard to say at this time," Mast said. "We do not know if the number of participants will support it."

San Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at [saggleston@gannett.com](mailto:saggleston@gannett.com).

**The decision is made; the judgment passed. The Wild 'Stangs sentence is death.**

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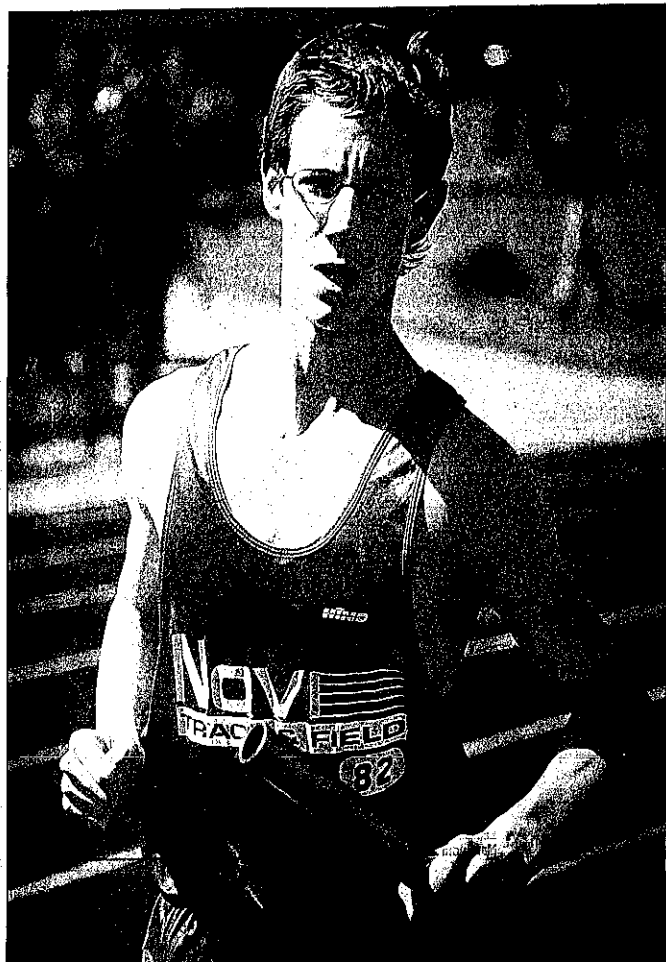
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AMC STAR SOUTH FELD 10  
MAYTON 7  
MAR WRESTLING CHINA 10  
PHOENIX WEST RIVER  
SHOWCASE DEARBORN

AMC PLYMOUTH 10  
AMC STAR FARRLAME 11  
AMC STAR JOHN R 11  
AMC STAR FRODO 11  
PHOENIX NEWARK CTR  
SHOWPLACE WESTLAND

# RELAYING THE MESSAGE

## Novi track is the real deal again this season



ABOVE: Long-distance runner Josh Lumley carries the baton during the Novi Relays.  
BELOW: Fernanda Adame somehow manages to bend her way over the pole vault bar.



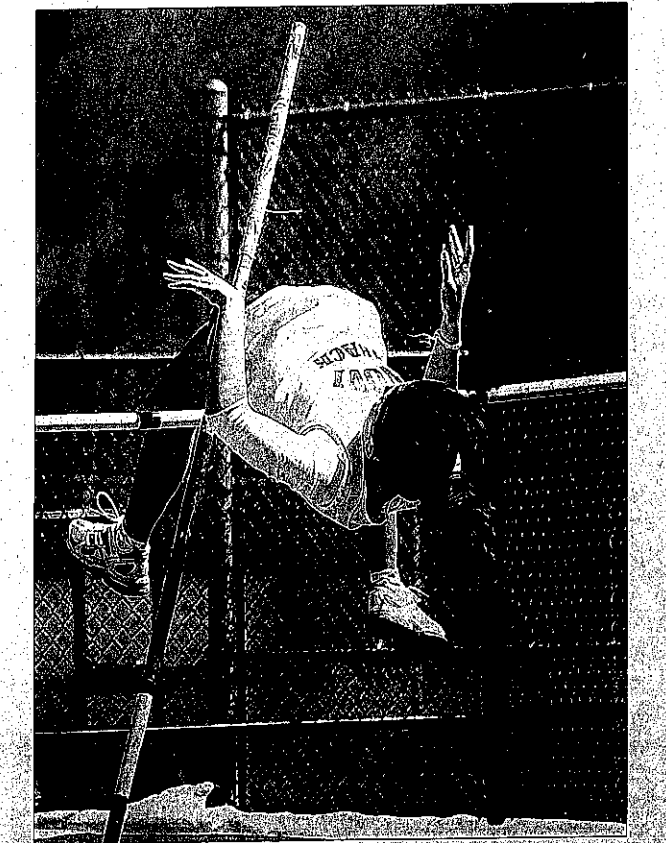
Novi shot putter Katie Hildreth hurls the eight-pound ball during the Novi Relays.



Long jumper Dan Coleman doesn't have to worry about the sun getting in his eyes.



Meghan Bannatz knows the value of keeping a steady pace while running the one-mile relay.



ABOVE: Long-distance runner Josh Lumley carries the baton during the Novi Relays.  
BELOW: Fernanda Adame somehow manages to bend her way over the pole vault bar.



Meghan Bannatz knows the value of keeping a steady pace while running the one-mile relay.

Photos by

**SAM EGGLESTON**

### 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 Gentili'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 Masi, Athletic Director, 45700 W. Six Mile Road, Northville, MI, 48168.

For more information, please contact Northville athletic director Bryan Masi at masib@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 clinic in Brighton.

Tom Moriano enters his tenth season as the head men's lacrosse coach at Sacred Heart University.

Moriano has helped the program 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 lacrosse conferences in the country.

Currently in his eighth season as head coach, Tim McIntee has been at the forefront of the successful turnaround of the Manhattan men's lacrosse program. McIntee 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 Stags.

Register online at [www.LacrosseTC.com](http://www.LacrosseTC.com) or give (248) 788-7020.

#### 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.; Babson Park, Fla.; Gainesville, Ga.; Clumpain, Ill.; North Manchester, Ind.; Towson, Md.; Vashli, Glasboro, N.J.; Schenectady, N.Y.; Hickory, N.C.; Commerce, Texas; Blacksburg, Va.; Lynchville, Va. and Beloit, Wis.

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

Registration underway for spring beginner adult developmental hockey leagues

Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills will offer separate Beginner Adult Developmental Hockey Leagues presented by Labati, for men and women during the spring season. Both leagues will run once per week for nine weeks. After an evaluation skate, players will be divided into teams and receive jerseys, then they will play six regular-season games followed by two playoff games.

Included in the league fees is the cost of awards for the league champions, jerseys and ice skates, who will also serve as referees during games in order to coach the players and teams during the play, on the bench and in between periods. As a bonus, all players in the BADHL will get a free membership to the SIFH Fitness Club from April-June.

The women's league will run on Sundays at 6:30 and 7:30 pm from April 2-June 18, 2006 (no sessions on April 16, May 14 or May 28). The men's league will run on Mondays at 8:30 and 9:30 pm from April 3-June 12, 2006 (no sessions April 17 or May 29). Registration is limited.

For more information, call (248) 889-1400 or visit [www.suburbanice.com](http://www.suburbanice.com).

#### 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 Tots
- 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](http://www.novicearena.com) today to inquire about the proper class for your skater.

#### Sign up for Suburban Showdown

Team and individual registration is underway for the Suburban Showdown Youth Spring Hockey League.

All West League games will take place at Suburban Ice-Farmington Hills and Novi Ice Arena, while all East League games will take place at Suburban Ice-Macomb and the Onyx-Rochester Ice Arena.

Two divisions will be offered for team registration this year: the Gold division permits up to three players who competed at the A, AA, Junior Varsity or Varsity level during the 2005-06 season, while the Silver division does not allow players from these levels to compete. Teams will only play other teams in their division at the mid (1999-99 birth years).

#### Your sports notice belongs here

The Northville Record wants to print your sports notices. From tryouts to banquets to calls for coaches and help, the sports shorts are the best way to get your announcement read. To get your sports notice listed here, contact sports writer Sam Eggleston at [seggleston@gannett.com](mailto:seggleston@gannett.com) for more information.

# Novi's Marchioni will take her game to the college level

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

"Ask any sports enthusiast who is a great source of clichés and they'll tell you that defense wins championships. That's exactly what Novi senior defender Lauren Marchioni likes to hear.

The soccer captain has made a name for herself as a fierce four-year varsity defender for the Wildcats and for her club team, the Michigan Hawks. She's made enough of a name for herself that she's taking her game to the next level when she attends John Carroll University in Ohio next fall.

"When I was walking on campus it just hit me that it was everything I wanted from a school," Marchioni said. "It's a gorgeous campus, it's small and I feel like I could really get along with the soccer coach and that we'd work well together."

As a member of the Blue Streak soccer team, Marchioni will fight for playing time as an incoming freshman. The athletics portion of her collegiate experience isn't the most important, which is one of the reasons she chose Carroll over larger universities.

As a Division III school, John Carroll puts academic excellence well over their athletic accomplishments. Marchioni will be studying business, possibly finance or accounting, while in college.

"That doesn't mean Marchioni isn't going to keep playing up to her high level of ability."

"She plays defense but has the foot skills of a midfielder," said Novi coach Brian O'Leary. "That will help her be very successful at the college level."

But before Marchioni can advance her play to the collegiate program at John Carroll, she has some business to take care of as a Novi Wildcat.

Last year, Marchioni was a key member of the Wildcats state championship team. This year, she fills the role of captain, though she said it's not as hard as some might think.

"This team gets along with each other so well that it's not as though they need the captain to make everyone listen," she said. "We listen to each other. That's what makes this such a good team."

Marchioni has already helped lead her team to an undefeated 5-0 record so far this year. She was key in helping her fellow defenders shut down Northville's All-State forward Laurer Hill and Dani Toney last Friday in a 2-0 Novi victory in the Baseline showdown.

Though Marchioni and the Wildcats are defending state champions, she said her team isn't the kind to get a goal of repeating. Winning the state title wasn't a spoken goal last year either. It just happened thanks to the way the team played together on the field.

This year, isn't much different in that regard.



Lauren Marchioni, middle, poses with fellow captains Kellie and Katie Walker. Marchioni will play soccer for John Carroll University in the fall.

Photo by SAM EGGLESTON

"You can just tell when we're on the field, with our style of play," Marchioni said. "We play really well together. It's as though we can read each other's minds and know when to make a run or where to pass the ball."

"It's not just that we can play well together, it's that being so close as a team makes it a lot of fun."

When Marchioni isn't playing soccer with the Wildcats or the Michigan Hawks, she can be found hanging out with her friends and family.

Her mother and father, Cindy and Tom, and her older sister and brother, Sarah and Jason, are big supporters of hers. She said she

enjoys being with them.

And though she loves being a part of Novi, she said traveling is something that has always been a big event for her. From Hawaii to Paris to the Mexican Riviera, Marchioni has been to a lot of places and seen a lot of things.

But when all is said and done, she misses Novi, and knows she'll miss it even more when she heads off to college.

"So many people complain that they can't wait to get out of here and go to college," she said. "I'm really going to miss it a lot."

Sure, I hate getting up really early and going to school, but I'm going to miss it and I'm going to miss the girls on the soccer team."

There's a lot of season left ahead of Marchioni and her teammates. Her job is an easy one — have fun and be a leader while she's at it.

"Her leadership abilities are fantastic," O'Leary said. "She is the type of person that cares about the team and her teammates above herself. She has great work ethic and is always striving to improve herself and improve the team."

"Above all else, Lauren is a good person."

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

## Catholic Central earns big wins

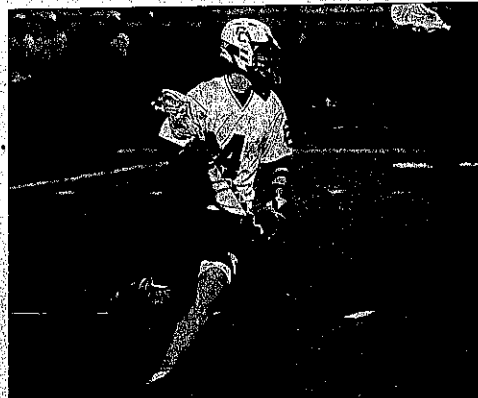
The Catholic Central varsity basketball team is off to a good start this year. The team has many new faces, but is keeping the same attitude as last year — continuing the tradition of success.

The Catholic Central team started off the season with a game against Detroit Western. The Shamrocks came out flying, and with the help of senior pitcher John Ballarín's one-hit, six-inning performance, Catholic Central cruised to a 17-1 victory.

The team next played a double-header at Notre Dame Prep. This series marked the opening of the Catholic League games. CC saw the highs and lows in this series, losing the first game by a score of 10-0, but rebounding well in the second game to win by a score of 17-0.

Catholic Central then played a series at Orchard Lake St. Mary's. Again, the Shamrocks right the outings, winning the first by a two-run margin, 4-3.

The Eagles came back strongly in the second game to rout the Shamrocks 5-1.



A Catholic Central attack looks for an opening during a recent contest.

The Warriors of Brother Rice were up next, and again the series was split. The Warriors came out firing on all cylinders, winning the first game by a score of 6-3. The Shamrocks would not be denied in the second game, though. They executed well and came away with a 13-9 victory.

The latest series for the Shamrocks was on Monday, April 10. They played at University of Detroit Jesuit. At the time of publication, scores were unknown.

Senior John Ballarín has been a major contributor to the team so far, recording a 3-0 record. There record till this point is 2-2.

Lacrosse earns two wins

The Catholic Central lacrosse team earned two wins and took a loss to rival Brother Rice last week.

Against Canbybrook, Catholic Central squeaked out a 7-4 victory before taking a tough loss to Brother Rice, 16-3. Against Farmington, the Shamrocks bounced back with a 10-2 record.

Tennis team wins Northville Invitational

The Shamrocks tennis team went 1-1 in the Northville Invitational last week and took championships, bouncing three other state-ranked teams to earn the top spot.

Compiled by Adam Dibois and Adria Antavala

Make a Difference  
**RECYCLE**



# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 6B

Novi News

Thursday, April 13, 2006

## NFIB News

### Employment laws require a solid plan

In Washington this week, the focus has been on security, border protection and illegal workers. Regardless of the ultimate results of the debate, which continues as I write, you can be sure that it will be yet another employment law that small-business owners will need to understand and follow.

Today, small-business owners contend with anti-discrimination laws, family, medical and other protected leave laws, wage-hour laws, privacy laws, and workplace safety laws. They often struggle to decipher the mysteries of overlapping, sometimes even conflicting, federal, state and local employment laws.

For example, in 1993, Congress passed the Family Medical Leave Act, which provides protected medical leaves to employees. Nearly every state has adopted some form of this federal legislation. However, state legislation often applies to much smaller businesses and may, in some cases, have even more stringent requirements.

These laws and regulations also are expensive; according to the Small Business Administration, workplace compliance costs small businesses nearly 10 percent more per employee than it costs large businesses. The problem is compounded by the fact that small businesses often times can't afford human resources or legal departments to give them advice on the laws.

Never before have small-business owners had such an incentive to get educated about employment issues. Far too many companies are sued, and often have to pay huge sums of money, because owners and managers either did not understand the often times confusing provisions of these myriad employment laws, or did not adequately enforce them. Supervisors need to be trained on good personnel practices, and all employees should be aware of discrimination laws — a tough assignment for the most and wisest who are focused day-in and day-out on running and growing their businesses.

That's the reason NFIB's Legal Foundation will offer an employment law hotline for its members this month, providing them with access to attorneys from Arcut Fox P.L.L.C. who can answer basic employment law-related questions.

Whether they need clarification on the Americans with Disabilities Act, or want to find out what their business has to do to comply with a certain Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulation, the hotline will help with discrimination and immigration issues, labor and management relations, non-competes agreements, health benefits and more.

These are questions that often overwhelm small-business owners, but can be easily answered by experts who can assist small-business owners in determining whether they need to seek legal counsel, or if they can solve the problem on their own. That will go a long way toward helping small businesses do what they all want to do — the right thing.

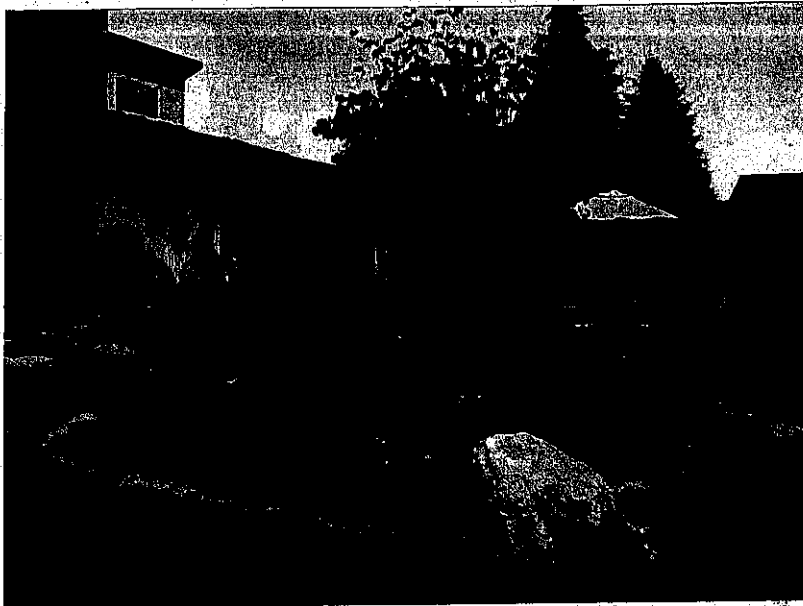
**Tool Shatterer** is the president of NFIB, the National Federation of Independent Business, the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the conservative views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. More information about NFIB and the Legal Foundation Hotline is available at [www.nfib.org](http://www.nfib.org) or by calling (800) NFIB-NOW.

### Story idea?

Our readers have great ideas and we want to hear them. Send us your ideas.

Send it to:  
Novi News  
104 W. Main St.  
Northville, MI 48167  
Fax: (248) 349-9932  
[csloan@arnett.com](mailto:csloan@arnett.com)

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Submitted Photo

Every part of your yard looks better when you call Advanced Master Gardener Jodi Slankard at Everything Grows: (248) 437-7739.

## 'Everything Grows,' with the right help

Spring has sprung, and with it comes visions of beautiful flowerbeds. Make the most of your growing season this year by consulting Jodi Slankard, Advanced Master Gardener, and Everything Grows professional gardening service, serving residential and commercial accounts throughout this area since 2002.

If you don't have the time or talent for gardening, you can still enjoy the beauty of a blooming garden. Jodi and her professional staff will help you make your garden flourish, brighter and blooming throughout the season. You don't need a green thumb, or to even lift a finger for that matter. Everything Grows will make new gardens or rehabilitate existing beds to maximize their potential.

"My specialty is flower gardens," Jodi said, "I prefer to use powerful combinations of perennials and flowering shrubs that bloom at different times or weather plants, and add annuals and flowering bulbs to provide a dramatic effect throughout the season."

Everything Grows will take care of everything from design to full cleanup. You may choose from a variety of services, including: garden design, bed layout and preparation, planting, maintenance, cleanup and preparation of beds for winter. Just sit back, relax and let her do the work so you can enjoy beautiful outdoor spaces filled with vibrant colors and memorable fragrances.

Jodi's expertise in planning ensures you'll get the desired results for your garden landscape. First, she'll sit down with you to find out your likes and dislikes in plants and colors. Then she'll consider the condition of your landscape, including factors such as soil type, sun exposure, and the view of the garden from your perspective.

Many landscapers only consider the "street appeal" of their designs. Jodi believes the most important

### EVERYTHING GROWS

Contact: Jodi Slankard,  
Advanced Master Gardener  
Phone: (248) 437-7739

view is from your windows and around your outdoor living spaces.

Everything Grows believes in doing it right the first time. The majority of their work involves amending the soil to get the most of your flowers. She uses compost to amend soils that are not 'lip to lip,' as well as enriching soils annually.

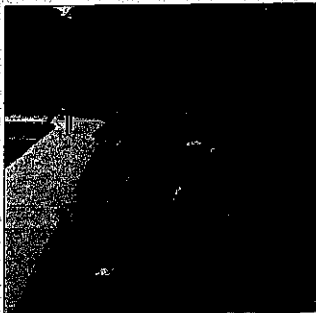
"The most important factor in gardening is starting with a great base," Jodi said, "It's so important that the plants get the nutrients that they need from the soil and gardening over the years will deplete the soil of these nutrients."

She also uses the appropriate fertilizers and pruning methods to get the most of your plants. Having colorful blooms through all seasons is a signature of her work. She views flower gardens as a constantly evolving work of art, with new changes and colors as it matures. She plans beds appropriately, thinking of the size of the garden plants at maturity so they don't overgrow their space.

"It's a very common mistake in garden/landscape design," Jodi said, "The beds look terrific for three or five years, then they become overgrown and are either require constant pruning or replacing after several years."

Customers will find she's flexible. They can pick and choose from her array of services. She understands that many clients prefer to do some of the gardening tasks, such as planting or maintenance. She's also happy to work with any size garden or budget.

While most of her clients are residential, she also provides landscaping and flowers to several business accounts and common



areas. Everything Grows can also take care of your business's annual painting and maintenance.

Everything Grows considers trust to be the most important element in hiring a landscaping or gardening service.

"I do what I say when I say it will be done," Jodi stated simply. The weather obviously will play a part in the process, but she prides herself as being reliable and trustworthy. She also uses only the healthiest plants from the best suppliers in the area.

Along with a bubbly sense of humor and love of all flowers, you might say she is a passion for roses. The South Lyon area resident actually comes from a family of "rosarians," including her mother, grandmother and great aunt.

"I love growing roses in Michigan, and they are not as high-maintenance as you may think. You can choose from the gorgeous, fragrant hybrid tea roses to provide beautiful bouquets in your home or office, or select from many easy-care rose varieties on the market this year. And no personal I've used blooms consistently

from June until October with as many choices of colors and fragrances. They are heavy feeders, but I find that they are worth all the fertilizer and water they require."

Jodi is proud of the background and training she received as a Michigan Master Gardener. It is a wonderful program available to anyone through the county extension offices. It is a low-cost, extremely educational program that involves all aspects of landscape design and maintenance including trees, lawns, flowers and vegetables.

Jodi also donates her time as a volunteer in the community including teaching gardening classes, and caring for the memorial garden at the South Lyon United Methodist Church.

She shares the Irish blessing for gardens that her grandmother passed to her mother and to her: "The kiss of the sun for garden, the song of the birds for earth. One is nearer God's heart in the garden than anywhere else on earth." For beautiful blooms, contact Jodi Slankard at Everything Grows at (248) 259-1363.

### Tip from Jodi Slankard, Everything Grows

The biggest obstacle we face in Michigan is irregular rainfall. Most gardens need at least an inch of water a week. Containers and hanging baskets dry out quickly and can need watering daily in hot and windy conditions. Adding a soaker system is the easiest way to ensure regular watering.

Fertilizing is the key to bigger, more consistent blooms. Water-soluble fertilizers feed to leach through the soil and can be ineffective. Everything Grows uses a slow-release granular fertilizer every few months.

Starting with a good base is the most important step in planning a new bed or refurbishing an existing bed. Everything Grows uses compost from Tuttil's compost farm.

Take heart if you're a novice or experienced gardener. A garden is like a constantly evolving science project. You have to be flexible with gardening and try different varieties and species until you get the right combination for you.

And every year you should try a new variety. Many experienced gardeners don't consider annuals worth planting. Try mixing them throughout your perennial beds. Nothing gives you constant color like annuals.

