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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER CELEBRATING ITS 51ST YEAR SERVING NOVI AND THE LAKES AREA



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# Novi News

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007

WWW.NOVINews.COM

VOLUME 51 #52 50 CENTS

## Deep Cuts: \$3.3 million, 62 employees

■ Schools slash 24 full-time teachers, plan takes effect July 1



Peter Dion

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Novi Community School District unveiled plans this week to lay off at least 24 full-time teachers as part of sweeping cutbacks designed to bring spending in

line with sagging funding.

In total, at least 62 employees will be laid off or reduced to part-time roles. The district hopes to save \$3.3 million with the cuts.

Officials also hope to infuse \$750,000 into the district by charging fees to participate in high school sports and activi-

ties, and increasing fees for other school programs, including community education.

The Novi School Board approved the layoffs last Thursday, and they go into effect July 1.

Superintendent Peter Dion said the district was weighed down by Michigan's budget

woes and smaller increases of students.

"The effect is it's going to cost people money to have their kids in school activities," he said. "Is it going to affect student achievement? I hope not."

For years, Novi has been able to count on a large influx of new

students each year to keep state revenue increasing — but enrollment is now flattening. The cuts have been under consideration for three months.

Dion said districts will have to learn to deal with less state money.

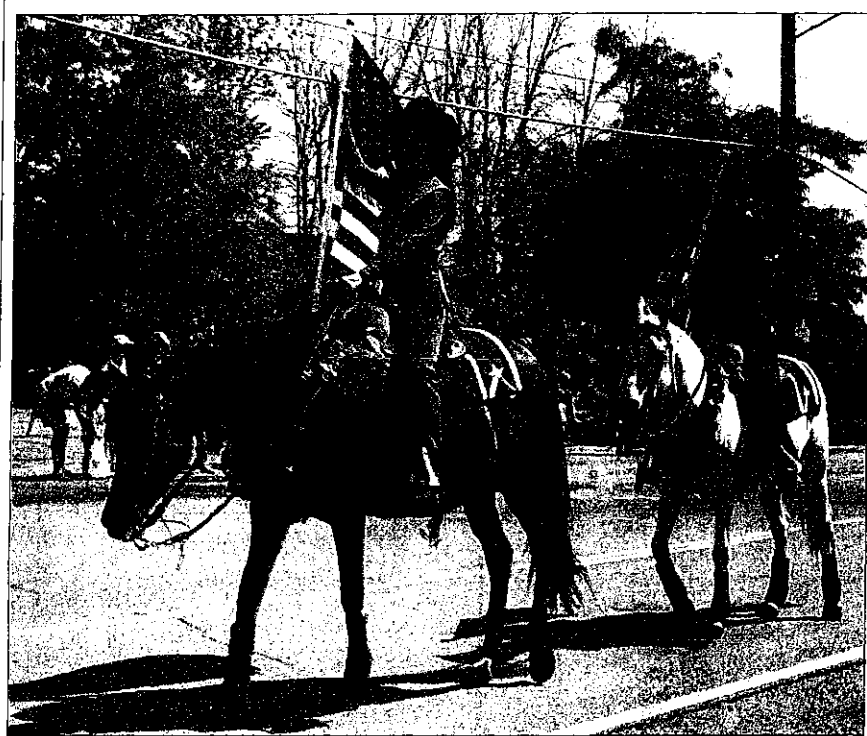
"It's unfortunate ... cuts like

this are going to make quality districts like Novi and Northville become mediocre," he said.

Cindy Buckley, who has two children in Novi schools and is president of the Parent

Association, said she is

Continued on page 2



City of Novi Courtesy Photo

Preparations are well under way for the Novi Memorial Day Parade. Last year, spectators enjoyed the annual promenade followed by a memorial ceremony.

By Victoria Mitchell  
NEWS EDITOR

Roland Heaton will proudly sit atop the city's memorial Day float come Monday morning.

Known more commonly as Rollie to members of the community, this World War II veteran will politely accommodate festive traditions, while focusing quietly on those who've served and died for freedom.

The City of Novi will also

## Here Comes the Parade

increase its focus on honoring war veterans during the 10 a.m. Monday Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.

"At the Novi Civic Center this year, we are enhancing our ceremony," said Tracie Ringle, Novi Parks and Recreation communications and resource development supervisor. "There will be

a bigger focus on those who have served, living and deceased."

Immediately following the parade, which begins at 10 Mile Road and Karim Boulevard, the city's programming will feature many new additions.

Guest of honor Richard Anderson, director of the Great

Lakes National Cemetery, will speak along with a gun salute and wreath presentation.

Novi Theatres will perform a short play called "Memorial," a War Board will be on hand highlighting conflicts throughout the

Continued on page 4

## The open road

■ Gas prices, accidents pose holiday pitfalls

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

It's the eve of the holiday weekend, and more than 1 million Michiganders are preparing to take to the roads to enjoy their first taste of summer.

But this year, motorists in Novi and across the state face a slew of pitfalls as they embark on the first getaway of the season. Most notably, sky-rocketing gasoline prices and reckless drivers are poised to put a damper on holiday fun.

The average price of a gallon of regular gasoline was \$3.42 early this week — nearly 60 cents higher than a year ago, the American Automobile Association reports.

### STORY CHAT

What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINews.COM.

And last year, 18 people were killed on Michigan roads during the Memorial Day weekend, an increase from 15 in 2005.

Still, these ever-present hazards won't stop motorists from hitting the road in droves, and this year AAA expects car traveling to spike 3.9 percent in the Midwest.

To increase safety, police officers are beefing up patrols this weekend.

In Novi, officials anticipate drunk driving arrests will swell by 20 percent compared to normal weekends, Police Chief David Molloy said.

Officers will also be watching closely for motorists not wearing seat belts. State and local agencies

Continued on page 2

## Veteran recalls

■ Man survives World War II, Auschwitz

By Pam Fleming  
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Marian Szczepanski has to keep remembering so that none of us will forget.

The 86-year-old man survived for two years during World War II in the Auschwitz concentration camp in Germany.

His mission now is to tell about his experience.

He does this out of a sense of history and his need to remind people of the atrocities that took

### STORY CHAT

What do you think? Tell us at WWW.NOVINews.COM.

place at the hands of the Nazis.

Earlier this year, Szczepanski talked to patients at Veterans Administration Hospital in Ann Arbor.

More than 100 people attended the presentation organized by Robert Greco Jr., from the hospital's extended care center.

Greco met Szczepanski when the veteran was a patient at the center.

"He wanted to share his knowledge and experience with people and was getting ready to be discharged. So, we scheduled his

Continued on page 5

## NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

### FRIDAY

From 7:30-9:30 p.m. today, the Weekend Warriors Relay for Life team in conjunction with the American Cancer Society and Novi Ice Arena is hosting an open skating session benefiting cancer research. The cost is \$4 for Novi residents and \$5 for non residents. Skate rental is \$3. Novi Ice Arena is located at 42400 Arena Drive.

### SATURDAY

Looking to unwind this holi-

day weekend? Look no further than the Post Bar in Novi's Main Street downtown area, 42875 Grand River Ave. Enjoy a large selection of beers inside the 12,000 square-foot destination, featuring indoor and outdoor patios. Cheer on the Tigers, groove to DJ Rey J & Mc Z or enjoy some Post Time Wings!

### SUNDAY

The Novi Library is closed today due to the holiday weekend, giving residents plenty of

time to find their sunscreen and prepare for tomorrow's Memorial Day Parade. The parade starts at 10 a.m. immediately followed by the city's memorial service.

### My Novi Bulletin Board

Novi's official events calendar. Page 14A.



### CONTACT US

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For the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, Novi patrol officers will be cracking down on seat belt enforcement and drunk drivers. Here traffic moves along Novi Road near Grand River Avenue.

**Gas prices, accidents pose holiday pitfalls**

Continued from front

**Schools slash 24 full-time teachers, plan takes effect July 1**

Continued from front

Teacher Organization at Novi Middle School, said she hoped the cuts wouldn't disrupt their education.

"I trust the administration and the board of education with the best decisions," she said. "I know that historically they have tried to impact the kids as little as possible."

**Deep cuts**

The reduction in teachers is likely the most prominent cut. Novi will be losing about 6 percent of its 429 teachers, including six at the high school and seven at its elementary schools.

Three elementary school Spanish instructors and at least five special education teachers will be laid off.

But other areas also will be hit hard.

The district is making deep cuts to its custodial staff, reducing it by 13. It will also lay off three psychologists and at least five paraprofessionals. Officials also won't buy five new school buses that were being considered. Summer technology work and software purchases will also be reduced.

Officials tried to spread the cuts throughout the district and in areas where there was less demand for services.

"It's a terrible thing to have to do — but we have to do it," said Bruce Bagdady, vice president of the board of education.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

**By the Numbers**

• 62 — the number of district employees who will be laid off or be reduced to part-time status.

• 24 — the number of full-time teachers laid off.

• \$3.3 million — how much the district hopes to save with the cuts.

• 175,000 — how much money the district hopes to generate through recycling programs for 2007.



**Open Season!**

The summer travel season is officially here. Some notable facts include:

• 1.1 million Michiganders will travel this weekend.

• In Novi, drunk driving arrests will spike 20 percent.

• Gas prices are soaring: The price of a gallon of regular gasoline was \$3.42 early this week — nearly 60 cents higher than a year ago.

• Last year, 18 people were killed on Michigan roads during the Memorial Day weekend, an increase from 15 in 2005.

Sources: AAA, Novi Police Department

**Novi Seat Belt Enforcement Zones**

- Grand River Avenue
- Novi Road
- Beck Road
- Wixom Road
- Ten Mile Road

The City of Novi Police Department issued 847 seat belt violations in 2006.

Source: Novi Police Department

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

campaign, dubbed "Click It or Ticket It," this week. It runs through June 3. Police officers usually work in tandem, with a spotter calling ahead to another patrol when a motorist is sighted without a seat belt.

In Novi, Grand River Avenue, Novi Road, Beck Road, Wixom Road and Ten Mile Road are enforcement zones.

"It makes perfect sense to have increased enforcement," Molloy said.

Novi issued 847 seat belt violations in 2006.

"It's hard to believe... some people still don't wear safety belts," said Capt. Robert Smith, of the Oakland County Sheriff's office.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.



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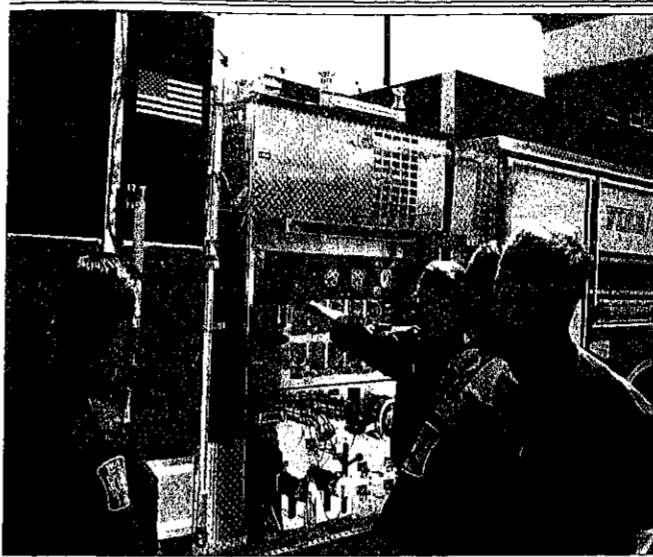
REPORT CRIME: Call (248) 348-7100 for non-emergencies in Novi

Victoria Mitchell, editor  
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102  
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**MY PUBLIC SAFETY**

Thursday, May 24, 2007  
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Submitted Photo

**Hot Property**

Members of the Novi Fire Department take a look at their new fire engine. The 2007 Pierce Class A fire pumper arrived this month. Members of City Council approved the \$387,000 purchase last year.



Photo by Dal Stone

**Get your motor runnin'**

The Novi Rotary Club was treated to a presentation by three motorcycle police officers last Thursday — Det. Mike Prough (left) of the Novi Police Dept., Trooper Scott Hammond from the Michigan State Police Metro North 21 station (right) and Trooper Robert Schwelm from the Michigan State Police Detroit station (second from right). Also shown are Lt. Victor Lauric of Novi Police and First Lt. Gary Parsons from the MSP Oak Park North station.



Submitted photo

**Pumping Water**

The Novi Fire Department's latest addition should be ready for rescue calls in July. The new pumper contains a 500-gallon water tank and a 1,250-gallon per-minute water pump.

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## Force mourns

With profound sadness and much regret, members of the Wisconsin police department announced the death of retired police officer Roger Declercq. Declercq was 77 years old.

Before his retirement in 1987, Officer Declercq served as a Wisconsin police officer for 23 years. He had also served as a Harper Woods police sergeant and New Haven police chief prior to his Wisconsin police service.

During his 33-year law enforcement career, Wisconsin law enforcement officials said Declercq was instrumental in the development of training standards for police K-9 officers as well as horse-mounted police.

While a police officer, countless police officers were trained by Declercq as K-9 and horse-mounted police officers.

He continued this activity after his retirement at his farm in Milford.

Until recently, he continued to train horses and riders in techniques of "cutting" whereby horses are used to isolate one or more cows from a herd.

He is survived by Mary, his wife of 33 years, and six children.

## Here comes the parade

Continued from front

years and a large memorial banner will be available for children to bring to the parade.

"We want more people involved and to comprehend what Memorial Day is all about," Ringle said.

Event organizers said about 30 Veterans are expected to be hon-

ored on Monday.

As far as the parade, Ringle said, the city has registered about 60 participants - old and new.

The "mini airplanes" will make another appearance along with the addition of more classic cars.

Caribou Coffee and the Novi Lion's Club are partnering to bring revelers a coffee stand along the parade route at the corner of Meadowbrook and 10 Mile roads.

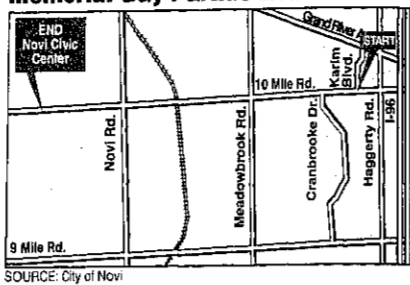
Famous Dave's Barbeque is catering the memorial ceremony following the parade.

The more recognition for veterans, the better, Heaton said.

For him, Monday will take him back to the day he shouted, "Germany surrendered, the war is over!"

Victoria Mitchell can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 102.

## Memorial Day Parade Route



## Novi Memorial Day Parade

When: Monday, May 28  
Time: 10 a.m.  
Where: Karim and 10 Mile  
Ceremony: Immediately following parade at Novi Civic Center on 10 Mile Road.

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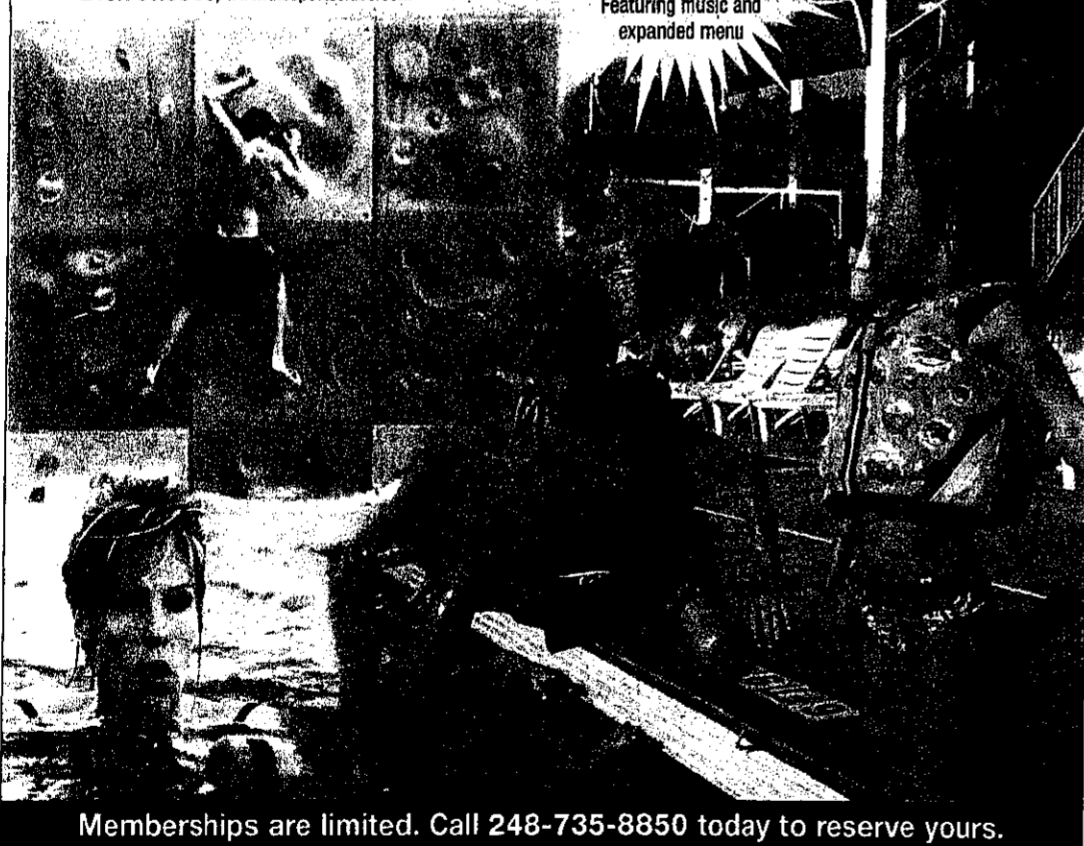
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Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Auschwitz concentration camp survivor and Polish freedom fighter Marian Szczepanski recalls the words from the famous death camp's commandant Rudolf Hoess to him: "If you ever do anything against Germany, you will go through the chimney of the crematorium." Szczepanski holds a book of photos of the Warsaw Uprising, a Polish fight against the Nazis in World War II, which he took part in.

## continued from front

presentation on short notice."

Szczepanski was discharged from the hospital and came back a few days later for the presentation. Hospital staff members who attended his talk received one hour of continuing education credit.

He accepts no money for his presentations and has addressed many groups over the years, including Brighton High School students in May 2006.

"It's my duty to humanity to tell people what happened in Auschwitz," he said.

## His life as a soldier

Szczepanski fought the Germans from the first day of World War II, on Sept. 1, 1939, in the Polish Army and then in the Polish Underground Home Army.

These soldiers fought the German SS troops for 63 days in the famous Warsaw Uprising.

Members of the 36th Army Division of the 7th U.S. Army liberated Szczepanski when he was a German prisoner of war in Warsaw on April 23, 1945.

The Northville residents subsequently joined the U.S. Army in various efforts against the Germans until May 8, 1945.

## His capture by the Germans

In an interview at his home on Frenchick, where he's lived for 46 years, Szczepanski talked about

## Cold winters in the camp

From Sept. 22, 1940, until March 19, 1942, he survived two of the most severe winters in 140 years in the largest and most notorious German concentration camps - Auschwitz.

"Auschwitz was impossible to survive for normal people," Szczepanski said. "I was not normal. That's why I survived. I had the motivation to survive."

In his talk, he compared the Ann Arbor VA hospital to the hospital in Block No. 20 at Auschwitz, to which he was admitted as Number 4974. This so-called hospital was a stop toward the Auschwitz I Crematorium, which still stands today.

While at the camp, he said Rudolf Hoess, the infamous commandant of Auschwitz, warned him, "See that smoke coming out of the crematorium? If you do anything against the Germans, that will be you."

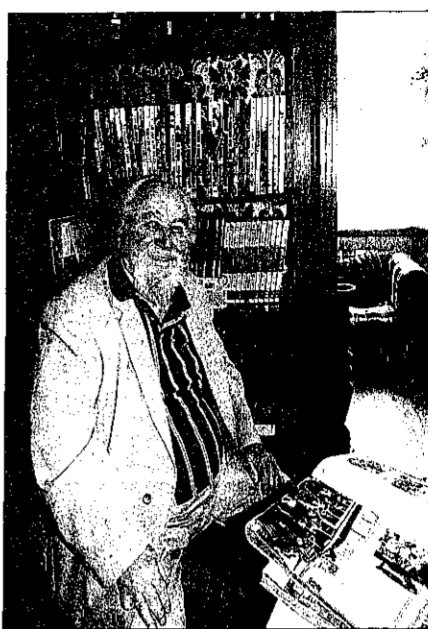
## World Travels

Earlier this year, Marian Szczepanski was one of 31 veterans whose experiences were recorded on DVD by the Veterans History Proba.

Health permitting, Szczepanski would like to take a group of area residents with him to the former Auschwitz Extermination Camp this year. He will serve as an unpaid tour guide if he can attract enough interest.

Szczepanski also was planning to travel to Poland in May to address the Polish Parliament and Senate about not selling land to Germans.

Interested parties can call him at (248) 231-5222.



World War II veteran and Auschwitz survivor Marian Szczepanski pauses as he goes over books about the Warsaw Uprising in his Northville home. Szczepanski took part in the uprising and was imprisoned in the famous Nazi death camp until 1942.

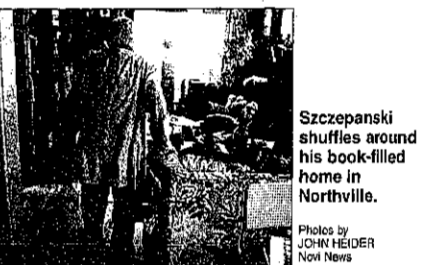
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Szczepanski shuffles around his book-filled home in Northville.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News



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## Stepping up to the plate: City, chamber, plot strategies for businesses with BAT program

By Greg Migliore  
NEWS STAFF WRITER

With the region's economy slipping, Novi is looking to give some of its local businesses a shot in the arm with a new program designed to help owners troubleshoot problems and make their companies more competitive.

Called the Business Assistance Team, or BAT, the program helps merchants with marketing, product, financial and other issues.

It's a joint effort by the city, Novi Chamber of Commerce, National City Bank, Oakland County Small Business Center and Service Corps of Retired Executives.

Teams of about five volunteers from these groups visit businesses in the city and develop strategies to help boost their performance. The program is free, and visits started Wednesday.

"We're just there to provide resources," Novi Community Relations Manager Sheryl Walsh said.

More than 25 businesses have signed up for the program, which officials want to do twice a year. The roster of firms includes a day care provider, drug store, chiropractor and tool company.

"Basically we are just reaching out to the businesses in Novi," said Nora Champion, president of the Novi Chamber of Commerce. "We're just trying to find what keeps them up at night."

Other communities have tried versions of the program, including Wixom, Royal Oak, Rochester and South Lyon. It's the brainchild of Patrick Mondro, a National City Bank vice president, and Jerry Deiloff, the former downtown city manager of Royal Oak. They devised it in 2003.

"We're not pushing anything," Mondro said. "We're just coming up with ideas."

Officials follow up with a recap of the meetings and ways to move forward.

"With the economy this way, the city is pulling out all the stops to help our businesses," said Cindy Uglov, Novi's small business manager.

Greg Migliore is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or gmigliore@gannett.com.

**BAT**

**What it is:** The Novi Business Assistance Team

**What it does:** Volunteers from public and private groups visit businesses to help them develop strategies to become more competitive.

**It includes:** Representatives from the city, Novi Chamber of Commerce, National City Bank, Oakland County Small Business Center and Service Corps of Retired Executives.

**Notable:** It was started in 2003 and other communities, including Wixom, Royal Oak, Rochester and South Lyon, have used it.

**Quotable:** "We're not pushing anything," National City Bank Vice President Patrick Mondro said. "We're just coming up with ideas."

### Toloff Promoted to President

  
**John Toloff**

Detroit Real Estate Developer, J & J Slavik Inc. announces the promotion of John Toloff to president. John was formerly vice president and chief financial officer for J & J Slavik Inc. since September 2004. Toloff is a CPA and graduate of the School of Management, University of Michigan Dearborn. His professional experience includes real estate development, construction and finance. Toloff resides in Novi with his wife and two sons.

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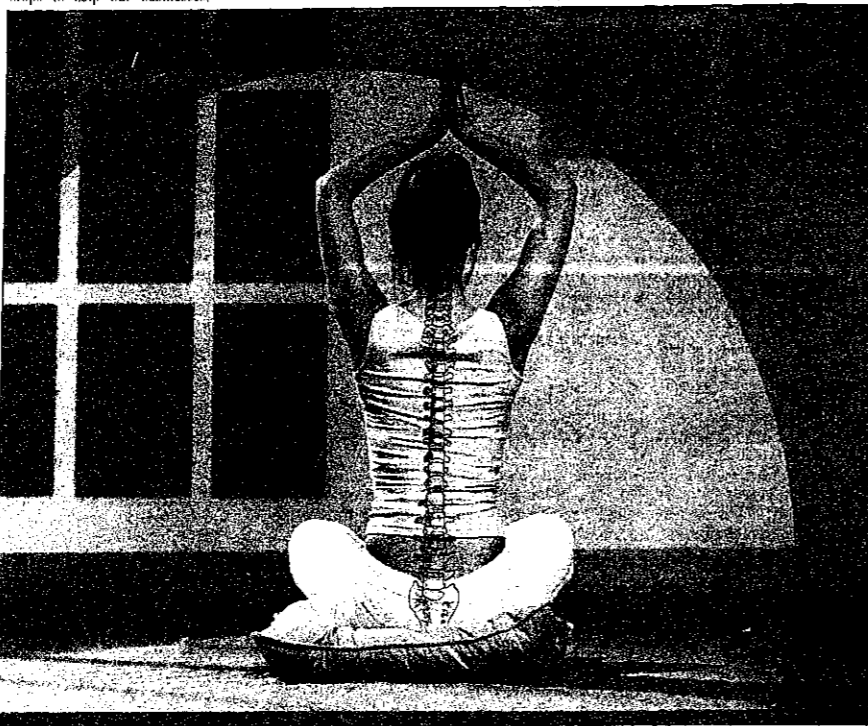
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## Hotel offers comfort, convenience

### Lodging sprouts next to Providence

By Tracy Mishler  
NEWS SPECIAL WRITER

Andrea Dooley just wanted to be close to her family. After suffering from several illnesses throughout her life, requiring numerous overnight hospitalizations, the 62-year-old former Novi resident wished they could have rented a hospital room during some of her visits.

"There were so many uncomfortable, sleepless nights for my husband and children," Dooley said. "I told them to go home, but they'd rather suffer than be comfortable, I guess."

Like Dooley, many people believe hospitals should have rooms for families during hospital stays.

St. John Providence Park Hospital, in Novi, expected to be completed in July 2008, will soon have the next-best thing.

Staybridge Suites Hotel, located on the property of St. John Providence Park Hospital, will provide a short walk for families looking to stay close to their loved ones once the hospital is complete.

Developed by Farmington Hills-based Whitehall Real Estate and managed by Troy-based Hotel Investment Services, Nashar said Staybridge Suites will offer all the amenities of being at home.

"We have free laundry facilities, a free breakfast buffet every morning and a business center so you don't have to bring your computer," she said. "The concept and feel is to get comfortable. We want to make you feel like you're at home."

Nashar said the price for staying at the hotel will start at \$149. "We're an upscale extended stay hotel," she said. "Prices are based on a daily rate, but the longer you stay, the better rate you receive."

For more information on the Staybridge Suites of Novi, call (248) 349-4600.

"People want to be close to hospitals... the hotel is a draw for the city as well."

Casalou said the hospital's partnership with the hotel will create demand for the Staybridge Suites.

"Our objective was to contribute to the economic development of our community," he said. "Especially Novi. We're intent on developing this campus and our focus is at Beck and Grand River."

Casalou said since the hotel will be completed several months before the hospital, the hotel will still be busy while hospital construction is underway.

"We'll have a lot of contractors as we get the hospital ready to open," he said. "The hotel should be busy right from when it opens with just the demand from the construction project."

Nashar said Staybridge will offer a grand opening celebration a few months after the hotel's initial opening.

"We're excited to open the doors and welcome guests in," she said. "This is a perfect fit for the hospital."

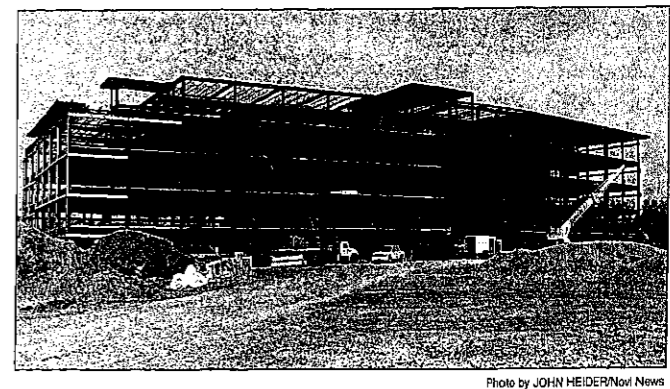


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

The Staybridge Suites hotel begins to take shape on the grounds of Novi's St. John Providence Park Hospital on Grand River Ave.

"Lots of times when people are in the hospital, it can be very stressful for them and their families. By helping to provide comfortable surroundings by the hospital, that's one less thing they have to worry about."

Rabi Nashar  
general manager, Staybridge Suites

### Denied Health Insurance? Can't Afford Premiums?

Do you want to purchase health insurance for you or your family but have been denied because of a preexisting condition? Or, have you been forced to drop your insurance due to a huge premium increase? If so, we want to hear from you. A coalition supporting health care reform wants lawmakers in Lansing to hear about how difficult it is to purchase affordable insurance, from ordinary people like you. Your story could help change the law and make insurance more affordable. Call (517) 267-9046 and tell us how you've been denied health insurance.

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# Their mission: Helping children to smile

## Volunteers do facial surgery for poor children

By Pam Fleming  
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Terri Klimek said one day a co-worker complained to her that it was 2 p.m. and she hadn't had time to eat lunch yet.

"At least we have food," Klimek responded.

Klimek, of Northville, said she has learned to appreciate the important things in life since she became a medical volunteer for Operation Smile seven years ago.

Operation Smile conducts medical missions to many countries, providing free surgery to children and young adults with cleft lips or palates, facial tumors or burns whose parents lack the resources and medical care to have these problems corrected. The organization has helped more than 100,000 children over the years.

Klimek is chairing Operation Smile Southeast Michigan's third annual gala June 9 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Dearborn. The organization is also celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

### Interest in volunteerism

Klimek, a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) in the Department of Anesthesiology at the

University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor, first heard about Operation Smile several years ago through colleagues who knew she was interested in volunteerism.

Over the years, she donated her time to many organizations over the years — everything from her condominium association to her daughter's school.

As soon as her daughter entered college seven years ago, Klimek went on her first Operation Smile mission as a medical volunteer.

Three years later, she was named liaison of the Southeast Michigan chapter.

Klimek has now participated in 13 Operation Smile missions, improving children's lives in Morocco, Kenya, the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Siberia, Venezuela, Nicaragua and, most recently, Ethiopia.

Her next Operation Smile mission is scheduled for Paraguay in November.

### Two-week long missions

The missions, Klimek says, are two weeks of extremely intense work.

As a member of the anesthesiologist team, she spends the first week screening potential patients and setting up operating rooms.

The second week is dedicated to performing operations. Volunteers also reserve a day to educate local citizens.

Klimek says Operation Smile keeps her grounded in her values and what really matters in

life. People ask her why she gives up vacation time to work 12-hour days on missions, but she never doubts her commitment.

"I knew within the first 24 hours of my first mission why the McGees (founders of Operation Smile) dedicated their lives to giving to children," she said.

Despite the hours she volunteers and the lives she improves, Klimek says she can never do enough for Operation Smile.

"I feel what they give us by far outweighs what we give them," she said.

Beginning at 7:30 a.m. local time on Nov. 11, Operation Smile teams will run 43 simultaneous missions in 25 countries, providing free surgery for about 5,000 children.

"It will be a great culmination for the 25th anniversary," Klimek said.

*Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Northville Record. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105, or at pfleming@gannett.com.*

### You can make a child smile

The Southeast Michigan Chapter of Operation Smile, an organization that provides free surgery to children with facial deformities, will celebrate the organization's 25th anniversary with a June 9 fund-raiser at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Dearborn.

Tickets for the 6:30 p.m. "Journey of Smiles" gala to be emceed by FOX-TV, Channel 2's Monica Gayle, are \$250 per person and include cocktails, dinner, dancing to the Jerry Ross Band, a silent auction plus a live auction by Dan Stall and the auction team.

For more information, call (248) 347-3653 or send an e-mail to [RSVP@dgmanaga.com](mailto:RSVP@dgmanaga.com).

For more information, go to [www.operationssmile.org](http://www.operationssmile.org).



Photo courtesy of Operation Smile

Terri Klimek, a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) and Northville resident, is shown above in the operating room with a girl from the Philippines on an Operation Smile mission.

"I feel what they give us by far outweighs what we give them."

Terri Klimek  
Operation Smile Volunteer

### CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.218, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 97-18, AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, FOR MODIFICATIONS TO ARTICLE 10, EXPO, EXPOSITION, DISTRICT

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing and any written comments must be received by the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 unit 4.00 P.M., Wednesday, June 13, 2007. Published May 24, 2007

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION  
MARK PEHRSON, SECRETARY

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From the American Civil War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, so many have made the ultimate sacrifice. On May 28, 2007, we honor those men and women who have served our country for the preservation of freedom.

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Victoria Mitchell  
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# MY EDUCATION

Thursday, May 24, 2007  
www.novinews.com  
fax: (248) 349-9832

## Novi Woods goes to Lansing



Selena Komesu, Megumi Kambe, Yui Sugimoto, Ashley Bradford, Brittani Keiland and Loredana Groteniek stand in front of a drawing of an old version of Michigan capital building.



Student Tommy McMaster poses with Gov. Jennifer Granholm at the Capital.



Fourth graders Olivia Bradford, Meredith Bauer and Kaitlyn Berg enjoy the Lansing sights.



Students listen to an instructor at the Michigan Historical Museum.



Students lay down to see artwork on the capital's ceiling.

<b>ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD</b> High & Elm Streets, Northville 1 Lubock Pastor Church: 349-3940, School: 349-3146 Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Service at 11:30 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Classes: 9:45 a.m. <a href="http://www.stpaulsnorthville.org">www.stpaulsnorthville.org</a>	<b>WARD EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 3450 W. Leland Ave., Northville, MI 48164-1821 13:30-14:30 (10:00-11:00 a.m.) Sunday School & Nursery Provided Sunday Morning Service: 9:00 a.m. <a href="http://www.wardchurch.org">www.wardchurch.org</a>
<b>FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> On Haggerty Rd. North of 6 Mile Rd. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Celebration: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. (248) 348-1100 Dr. Ron Block, Pastor	<b>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE</b> 200 E. Northville Rd., Northville, MI 48164 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) Church: 349-2821, School: 349-3610 Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Rev. James P. O'Connell, Pastor
<b>MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b> 7100 Woodland Hills, Northville, MI 48164 248-348-7757 • MFCOnline.org/248-348-7757 www.meadowbrook.org • Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Confirmation & Baptism: 10 a.m. Confirmation: The Spirit of God Church, 655 Village Green, Interim Minister	<b>OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 7100 Woodland Hills, Northville, MI 48164 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) Church: 349-2821, School: 349-3610 Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Rev. James P. O'Connell, Pastor
<b>HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL</b> 10101 W. Leland Ave., Northville, MI 48164 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) Church: 349-2821, School: 349-3610 Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Rev. James P. O'Connell, Pastor	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 9 Mile & Meadowbrook Worship: 10:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:00 a.m. Thomson F. Schroeder, Pastor • 349-6565
<b>FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</b> 2450 W. 10 Mile, Novi, MI 48240 172 Mile west of Novi Rd. Sunday: 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Service Dr. Richard J. Henderson, Pastor	<b>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE</b> 304 N. 11 Mile & 10th St. Sunday: 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Confirmation: 10:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) Rev. Lisa Cook <a href="http://www.umcnorthville.org">www.umcnorthville.org</a>
<b>ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI</b> 4625 10 Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48240 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) Church: 349-2821, School: 349-3610 Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Rev. James P. O'Connell, Pastor	<b>OAK POINTE CHURCH</b> 5000 W. Ten Mile, Novi, MI 48240 Sunday: 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Casual, contemporary live band (248) 912-0443 <a href="http://www.oakpointe.org">www.oakpointe.org</a>
<b>CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY</b> 2625 Westwood Dr., Novi, MI 48240 Mass: Sat 5 p.m., Sun 7:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Holy Days: 7 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Fr. Robert J. Anderson, Pastor Fr. Robert J. Anderson, Pastor Pastor Office: 349-8847	<b>Your church could be here. Call Lisa Tincu 248-349-1700 ext. 118</b>
<b>NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEN ORTHODOX CHURCH</b> 3851 Fox Ave. (at 10th & Haggerty) Farmington Hills, MI 48334 Phone: 734-924-0331 Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.) Rev. Fr. George M. Vlasopoulos, Pastor <a href="http://www.nativityorthodox.org">www.nativityorthodox.org</a>	<b>ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, ELCA</b> Farmington Hills, MI 48334 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.) Church: 349-2821, School: 349-3610 Bible Study: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Rev. James P. O'Connell, Pastor

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**  
For information regarding rates call The Northville Record or Novi News (248) 349-1700

**HAIL TO THE VICTORS VALIANT.**

**The Cancer AnswerLine** provided Lisa with information on alternative treatments for her mom, Juli's, rare form of sarcoma. Lisa's e-mails to Kim, one of our oncology nurses, helped her discuss options and make informed decisions with her doctor. Lisa says Kim's personal responses were quick, thorough and gave her peace of mind. And she's happy to report that her mom is in remission. The nurses of the Cancer AnswerLine — another reason we say, at U.M. what stays with you are the people who are there for you, along the way. That's the Michigan Difference.

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GOT A STORY IDEA? Contact the Novi News to spread the word about what's going on

Victoria Mitchell  
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# MY EDUCATION

Thursday, May 24, 2007  
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**SNAKE!!!**  
Bailee Kiel, left, and Leah Wright both get a hug from a 40-pound Burmese python held by Science Alive's Bill Neill. Neill brought a number of animals to Novi Woods last week for the kids to see up close, including an armadillo, monitor lizard, horned frog and macaw parrot.

## Class Notes

**Big band**  
The Novi High School Jazz Ensemble will be performing Thursday, May 31 during Senior Honors Night at the Rock Financial Showplace. Other Novi High School musical performances include an appearance by the marching band at this Monday's Memorial Day Parade and during the June 9 commencement ceremony.

**Community Education Preschool Registration**  
The Novi Community Education Preschool is now accepting registration for the fall 2007-08 school year. This year the preschool program is offering additional four-day-a-week classes, along with its established variety of classes and times. Children must be 3, 4, or 5 by Dec. 1, 2007. Children must also be completely toilet trained.

**Summer CARE program**  
Looking for an enriching educational summer with adventure and fun? Join the Novi Community Education summer C.A.R.E. program for children in preschool to middle school. The staff is experienced, and activities are age appropriate. Activities will include: field trips, crafts, science experiments, sports, games and more. Registration is now open for

the Novi Community Education Summer C.A.R.E. program. Packets are available online at [www.novi.k12.mi.us](http://www.novi.k12.mi.us) or call (248) 449-1713 for more information. This year the program will be located at Parkview Elementary School.

**School Board Meetings**  
The next Novi Community Education District Board of Education meeting is 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 7 at Novi Middle School, 49000 Eleven Mile Road. For more information, call (248) 449-1200.

Technology Center, 25345 Taft Road, located between 10 and 11 Mile roads. When registering a child (or children), a parent needs to bring the following: A completed registration packet (available on the district's Web site, [www.novi.k12.mi.us](http://www.novi.k12.mi.us)); child's birth certificate or passport; and non-refundable registration fee (resident, \$45 for school district residents, \$50 for non-residents). For more information about the classes, please call the preschool office at (248) 449-1713.

Submit your information in the Class Notes of the Novi News. Send information to [vmitchell@gannett.com](mailto:vmitchell@gannett.com). Photos are also welcome.

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7:15 PM Training Program Kickoff  
Meet the Olympian and Runner's World columnist for a FREE clinic to kick off the Detroit Half-Marathon Training Program. For more information, contact Running Fit's Lara Lator: 248-380-3338

**Sunday, June 3, 1-6 PM**  
Jeff Galloway's 1-Day Running School  
"Run until You're 100-Injury Free!"  
Sign up and receive an individualized running form evaluation and a copy of Jeff's book. Register online at [JeffGalloway.com](http://JeffGalloway.com), or for more info, email [Carol.Miller@jeffgalloway.com](mailto:Carol.Miller@jeffgalloway.com). Class Fee: \$189

Location for both: Running Fit Northville  
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**Flower Sale**

May 25-26  
Friday 9 - 6 and Sat 9 - 5  
Downtown Northville

Streets of downtown Northville will be paved with flowers at the Annual Flower Sale.

Participating greenhouses and garden shops will participate in the sale. Events are sure to bring life to any garden.

Presented by the Northville Central Business Association and the Northville Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, call 248-349-7640 or visit [www.northville.org](http://www.northville.org)

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Victoria Mitchell, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 102

MY OPINION

Thursday, May 24, 2007 www.novinews.com

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell EDITOR Richard Penberg EXECUTIVE EDITOR Gracia Perez Perry GENERAL MANAGER

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

In our opinion: Michigan's woes have caught up to Novi

It's over. The notion that rapidly expanding, Novi, the capital of suburban growth, is immune to the state's budget woes... That's the cold, hard truth. The school district, one of the city's true crown jewels and perhaps its most valuable asset, announced sweeping cuts this week designed to save \$3.3 million.

Send us your news Do you have a new hire at your business? Are you gearing up for your grand opening? Is your business heading in an exciting new direction...

What do you think? We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification.

LETTERS

Time for action

Pink slips were handed out to teachers at Novi High School, as the Republicans in the State Senate refused to take meaningful action on the state's budget crisis. The majority party in the Senate wants to "take the state budget by storm" and smoke and mirrors by shifting substantial amounts of this year's cost into next year's budget.

Slash and burn

I am writing to express my agreement with the letter published by Republican County Commissioners Hugh Crawford and Jeff Potter to stop the attempts of "slash and burn" state funding cuts. As has been stated in numerous newspaper columns, funding cuts will not solve our state budget shortfall, and cuts that lower Michigan's infrastructure, public services and quality of life will not encourage business owners to move here.

In the Dark

I attended last Thursday's Novi Board of Education meeting, and I was amazed how so many important issues could be presented and discussed without the public getting a chance to view it on Cable Channel

Before the regularly scheduled meeting, the board convened a special meeting to discuss the budget shortfall and take action. Neither meeting was taped. In a cost cutting move planned to alleviate a \$3 million dollar deficit, the board unanimously approved the layoffs of 44 employees (as recommended by the school administration). This is in addition to seven pending resignations. The layoffs (which take effect after the school year) include approximately 30 teachers. Additional reductions are being considered and will be discussed at the next school board meeting.

Willy Mena

Why is the sale of the unused Bosco property not considered? We don't know how much equity we have in it, but I'll bet it's significant. I would like to see this short-fall (if not totally eliminate it). Other recommendations (including pay-for-pay, reduction of high school hall monitors and high school busing, increased community ed. fees, elimination of any new athletic facilities in 2007/2008, etc.) will be discussed at the next school board meeting.

About Tom Watkins

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as state superintendent of schools from 2001-2005. Read his internationally recognized report: The New Education (R)evolution at www.nacol.org. He can be reached at twatkins@aol.com.

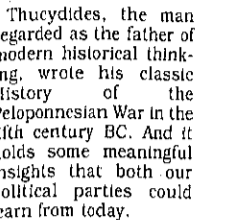
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Victoria Mitchell, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 102

COMMENTARY

Thursday, May 24, 2007 www.novinews.com

Political system geared toward extremists



About Phil Power

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1999. He is also president and founder of The Center for a Moderate Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@cmnet.com.

Thucydides, the man regarded as the father of modern historical thinking, wrote his classic History of the Peloponnesian War in the fifth century BC. And it holds some meaningful insights that both our political parties could learn from today. Besides writing about that terrible war, in which Athens and its allies were vanquished by Sparta, the ancient Greek general explored one of the oldest questions in philosophy: What do we mean when we say that something "caused" something else?

Bishop, R-Rochester, dislike each other. Quite to the contrary, they have a good personal relationship. Yet the dynamics dictate that most of Dillon's Democratic legislators are well to the left of Bishop's Republican followers. The underlying cause is the way legislative districts have been designed. Both parties have mastered the use of political technology so that they can slice and dice a political map with amazing refinement.

Even worse. Next year's primary calendar is in the process of being so distorted by states anxious to jump to the head of the pack that it is "so contrary to the national interest that it cries out for action," according to David Broder, one of the nation's most respected political commentators. Earlier this month, Florida moved its primary up to Jan. 29, right on the heels of New Hampshire's primary Jan. 22.

But he makes it clear that the underlying cause for the war was really Athens' preoccupation with its empire and Sparta's fear that its independence might thereby be crushed. The more things change, the more things stay the same. Fast forward to the confused state of our politics, A.D. 2007, as a classic case in which you need to understand what's beneath the surface. Republicans and Democrats can't seem to get along, indeed, the gap between liberal, left-leaning Democrats and conservative, hard-right Republicans seems so enormous as to make sensible compromise in the middle almost impossible.

At the same time, Democratic primary voters are well to the left of most of us. This means that the candidates that are anointed in the primary election are often representatives of the political extremes. No wonder they can't get along once elected! Here's another example of how underlying struc-

ture causes distort political behavior. Has it ever occurred to you that the candidates we nominate for President these days are by and large not the best qualified for the most important job in the world? That's not because there are fewer able people willing to run for President. It's because back in the 1970s, we changed the way candidates were nominated. Back in the old days, nominations took place in national conventions, where political bosses gathered in smoke-filled rooms and horsetraded and haggled about who would be nominated. All of them knew the possible candidates, their strengths and weaknesses. And all of them realized that their political power depended on picking a nominee who was capable and without serious personality flaws. So we got nominees like Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry Truman.

For breaking news in Novi, click www.novinews.com

NOVI NEWS STAFF: Abbie Holden - Office Asst., Margery Tauriainen - Office Asst., Lisa Dranginis - Ad Manager, Nicole Stone - R.E. Acct. Exec., Lisa Tincu - Account Executive, Greg Migliore - Staff Writer, John Heider - Staff Photographer

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SPOTLIGHT ON ALLERGY & ASTHMA. Preventing Insect Stings. The warm weather of summer is upon us, and it's time for leisurely walks, picnics in the park, and trips to the playground.

Physical Therapy Rehabilitation Update. By Dennis Engerer, P.T. REHABILITATION AFTER A STROKE. About 20% of the more than 700,000 Americans who suffer strokes each year survive and require rehabilitation.

By the Bottle Presents... Wines You Must Try. Thursday, May 31, 2007 6:00 - 8:00pm at Mezza Mediterranean Grille. Over 50 wines from the area's smaller, more selective distributors.





continued from 15

Shop, 2334 Farmington Road, Farmington, Third Saturday, Farmington Co., 3-1635 Grand River Ave., Farmington MI 48145. This is a voluntary group. Everyone is invited.

St. John Lutheran LOCATION: 23225 Hill Road, Farmington Hills CONTACT: (248) 474-0584 or visit www.stjohnlutheran.com

Faith Community Presbyterian CONTACT: (248) 434-2111, 10 Mile Blvd. #1218, 349-2345 or visit www.fccny.com

Gracepointe Presbyterian CONTACT: (248) 407-3178 or visit www.gracepointeprc.com

Gracepointe Child care will be available. For more information on Bible Study and other ministries see contact info.

Orchard Hills Baptist Church LOCATION: 23455 Novi Road CONTACT: (248) 349-5665

Health Screenings at Meijer LOCATION: 4990 Grand River Ave., Wyand CONTACT: (248) 347-0780

tests for low cost: Cholesterol, \$30; Liver Function, \$15; Diabetes Screening, \$4; Hemoglobin A1C, \$30.

Running Fit "Flirt with Dirt 5K/10K" Run TIME/DATE: 7:30 a.m. Saturday, June 9

BORDERS BOOKS AND MUSIC 43075 Crescent Blvd., Novi, Call (248) 347-0780

Book Signing, "Spartan Seasons II", Lynn Henning TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Friday, June 8

Book Signing, "Tales From The Detroit Dugout", Jack Ebling TIME/DATE: 1 p.m. Sunday, June 10

Book Signing, "The Penny", Joyce Meyer TIME/DATE: noon Friday, June 15

ONGOING SWOCC Studio Tours LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington.

CLASS REUNIONS Novi High School Reunion-Class of 1957

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE 46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 348-5600

Bellevue High School Class of 1982 DATE: Aug. 3-5

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 1987 DATE: Saturday, Aug. 11

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 1997 DATE: Friday, Oct. 19

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 1997 DATE: July 28

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Storh at mari.storh@stglobel.net, Mary Middleton at mvonglan@aol.com

Bellevue High School Class of 1982 DATE: Aug. 3-5

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Novi High School Reunion-Class of 1997 DATE: Friday, Oct. 19

Novi High School Reunion-Class of 1997 DATE: July 28

GOLF OUTINGS

South Lyon High School Baseball 3rd Annual Golf Outing DATE: Sunday, June 3

Holo-in-One Event DATE: Sunday, June 3

Lakes Area Rotary Club Golf Outing to Benefit Area Fire Departments DATE: June 5

Angela Hospice Golf Outing DATE: Friday, June 15

Living Water's 3rd Annual Charity Golf Outing DATE: Friday, June 8

Novi Rotary 22nd Annual Charity Golf Outing DATE: Thursday, June 14

Novi Lions Club 14th Annual Charity Golf Outing DATE: Thursday, July 12

Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce Second Annual Golf Outing DATE: Tuesday, July 10

Brighton Hospital Annual Golf Classic DATE: Monday, August 13

Northville Newcomers and Neighbors Wine Tasters Annual Golf Outing DATE: Saturday, June 30

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prizes, mini-silent auction; beneficiaries programs for terminally ill patients and their families.

24th Annual Goodwill Industries Golf Classic DATE: Monday, June 11

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Comic capers Don Zomborg of Grand Rapids checks out stacks of comic books at last weekend's Motor City Comic Con at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace.

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and Country Club, 6760 Chilton Road, Brighton DETAILS: Sign up early for an extra round of golf. Sponsorships available.

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CANTON	42489 Ford Rd. (At Lilley in Canton Corners)	734.844.0400
BIRMINGHAM	32767 Woodward (1 block South of 14 Mile)	248.549.1951
LAKESIDE	13909 Hall (Across from Lakeside near Old Navy)	586.532.8055
LIVONIA	31629 Plymouth Road (1 block West of Merriman)	734.425.1500
NOVI TOWN CENTER	(Next to Men's Warehouse, South of I-96)	248.348.5494
ROSEVILLE	32098 Gratiot (Across from Macomb Mall at Masonic)	586.294.8360
ROYAL OAK	28074 N. Woodward (South of 12 Mile)	248.414.6909
SOUTHGATE	17820 Eureka Road (Between Reeck & Allen Rd.)	734.281.7766
TAYLOR	22395 Ecorse (1/2 Mile East of Telegraph)	313.291.3603
TAYLOR	23850 Eureka (Near Southland Mall)	734.297.0554
TROY	3536 Rochester Road (Bet. Big Beaver & Watties)	248.743.1088
WARREN	26645 Hoover (In the Hoover - 11 Shopping Center)	586.754.1500

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## Time to bloom: Community hosts annual flower sale this weekend

**Greenhouses and garden shops to display variety of plants**

By Maureen Johnston  
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Northville's Main Street is going to bloom two full blocks two full days this year.

When the downtown's annual flower sale returns tomorrow, vendors will stretch from Wing to Hutton streets for the first time.

For the 20th year, the Memorial Weekend tradition is the source to start your gardening season, said Janet Bloom, Northville Chamber of Commerce marketing and events director.

"I think what's going to be great this year is the show has expanded,"

Bloom said. "It extends Wing to Hutton with Center Street still open (to motorists)."

"Again, there will be a great selection of high-quality annuals, perennials and any items you'll need for your garden."

**Tradition in town**

Bloom said 20 top-rated greenhouses and garden shops will display an array of spring and summer blossoms, ornamental accents, herbs, roses, shrubs, exotic plants and trees.

"We encourage you to bring your wagners from home and lead up on great finds," she said. "Now is the season to begin planting your garden for the upcoming warmer months."

"No Parking" signs will alert motorists of the road closing effective 6 a.m. Friday. Main Street will reopen to vehicles at 6 p.m.

Some of the vendors have been setting up stalls on Main Street since the sale started 20 years ago. Other faces are familiar from their weekly presence at the chamber's Thursday farmers' market at the corner of Center Street and Seven Mile Road.

"Like the Farmers' Market, I think it's a great opportunity for friends and family to gather and really make a day of it," Bloom said. "You can go shopping downtown, grab a bite for lunch and grab some great buys at the flower sale."

**Joining the floral fray**

With the start of construction on the town square expansion imminent, event organizers decided to shift vendors from Bundick Park to Main Street west of Center Street. Some members of the Northville Central Business Association, co-host of the flower sale along with

the chamber, are taking extra steps to welcome flower sale shoppers.

"We'll open early both days at 9 a.m.," said Mary Starnig, business association president and co-owner of Swearington's. "We'll do a flower days 10-percent discount. I know we were excited about them coming down to this side of town."

Like the art gallery six-month-old NOMI for the first time will be in the heart of the flower sale action.

The restaurant, which opened on West Main Street in December, is hosting a high tea from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. tomorrow and Saturday.

"We think it will be fun for all the people out for the flower show," said NOMI spokesperson Corrie Gurs.

"We thought we'd like to be part of the festivities."

Maureen Johnston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107.

### FLOWER DAYS DOWNTOWN



#### Flower Sale downtown

Who: Open to the public  
What: 20 greenhouses and vendors  
Where: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. tomorrow, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday  
Where: Main Street between Wing and Hutton  
For info: (248) 349-7640  
Web: www.northville.org

#### High tea at NOMI

Who: Open to the public  
What: Tea sandwiches, pastries, hot or iced imported leaf teas  
Where: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
Where: NOMI restaurant in Northville Square, 133 W. Main St.  
Cost: \$8.95  
For info: (248) 449-3200

Janet Bloom  
Marketing and events director, Northville Chamber of Commerce

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*Carando Lo Salt Salami \$4.99 lb.*

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Winter's Sausage Cheddar Smoked \$5.99 per package  
Official Sausage of The Detroit Tigers \$4.69 per package

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*Great on Burgers!*

*Perfect for Picnics & Barbeques*

Rose'Des Karantes Coteaux Du Languedoc \$10.99

Cartledge & Brown 2005 Sauvignon Blanc \$10.99  
*Perfect picnic wine*

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*Great for picnics*

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Joe's Own Bread & Butter Pickles \$2.99 lb.

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State bound  
Girls track qualifies six  
events for state meet  
from regionals ... P. 3B

## SPORTS GALLERY: GIRLS GOLF

PAGE 4B

# MY NOVI SPORTS

## Novi tennis teams capture regional title

SPORTS, 3B

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### SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

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# Districts: Time to put it all on the line



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Northville Record

This quartet of Wildcats is getting ready for the playoffs. From left: Brandon Schwanz, Pat Schlenke, Brett Glover, and Mike Slack.

## Wildcats hope best ball is yet to come

By Jeff Theisen  
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats and Catholic Central Shamrocks head into district play Tuesday.

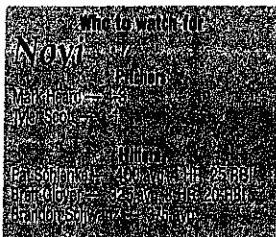
Catholic Central is hosting a district that has plenty of power, led by Northville, which has won more than 20 straight games.

Novi starts off the district with a 3 p.m. game Tuesday against fellow KVC foe South Lyon.

Catholic Central has a much tougher draw in Northville, starting after the Novi-South Lyon game.

#### Novi

Novi comes in as the wild card to the district. At 15-13 they've had games where they've looked really strong and games where they've struggled. If the Wildcats put together a few well-pitched games, they could find their way into the district finals.



But it will all start with KVC foe South Lyon. "We're showing a lot of character, a lot of heart, never-say-die and never-quitting," Novi head coach Rick Green said. "It's something that I've been looking for for a long time from this team and it's kind of shown up in the last couple of weeks."

Leading the team on the mound are Mark



Heard, Tyler Scott and closer Matt Hohenshil.

"Mark Heard has been doing a great job pitching," Green said. "Matt Hohenshil has been outstanding."

Pat Schlenke has been the leader at the

See **BASEBALL, 4B**

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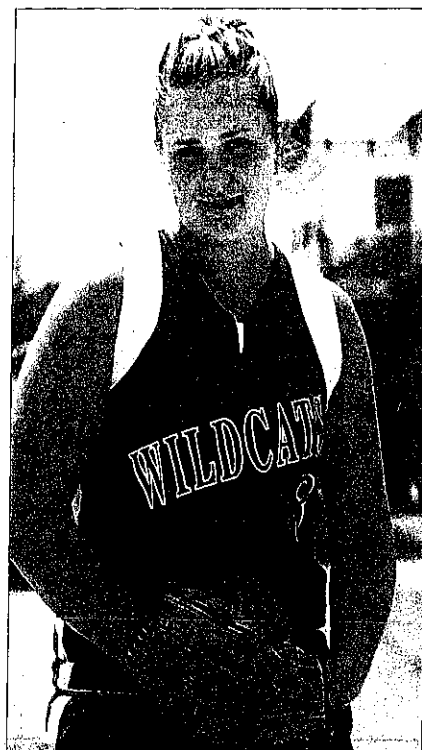


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Wildcat pitcher Brittany Luka is ready for the playoffs.

## 'Cats hope to surprise

■ Just 8-19, Novi wants to sneak up on rest of district

#### Novi

Lulek is still in his first year with the Wildcat program, and he thinks things are starting to click between him and his team.

"That was going to take some time," Lulek said. "My system is a little bit different what they had in the past. We've got some talent, I had to get it out of them."

One of the most important players for the Wildcats is pitcher Brittany Luka. She has pitched all but a couple of games this year, and she has kept the score close throughout the year.

"Brittany Luka is throwing with more confidence," Lulek said. "Her command of her pitches is a lot better. She's throwing probably as well as I think she can throw right now."

Hitting has been the issue for

By Jeff Theisen  
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Coaches always want their teams to be playing their best ball heading into the state playoffs.

Northville head coach Teryn Chrzanowski has to be quite pleased with her 23-5 squad with districts right around the corner.

Novi head coach Bob Lulek thinks his team is coming around, right at the best time. Despite an 8-19 record, Novi wants to stay below the radar and will try to catch teams possibly looking past them.

See **SOFTBALL, 4B**

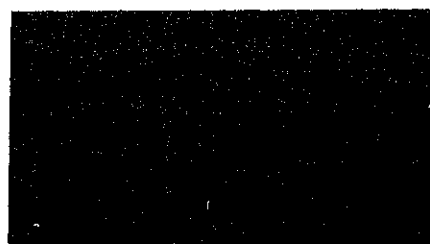
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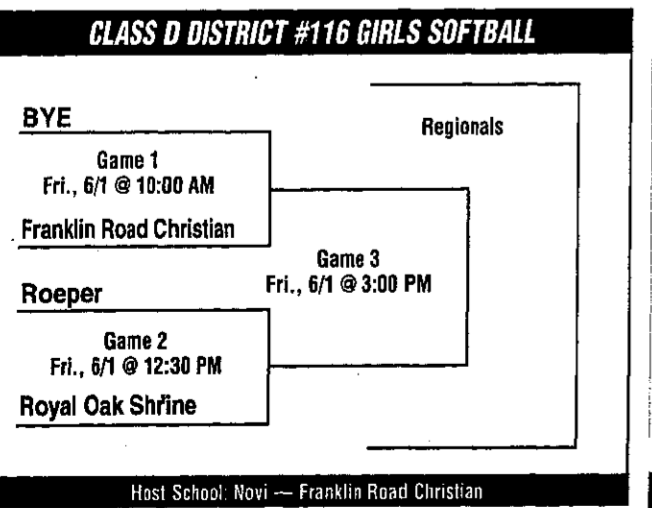
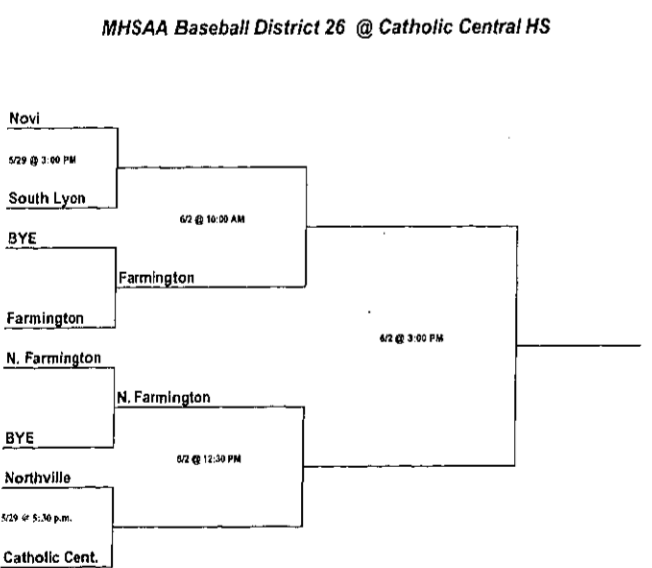
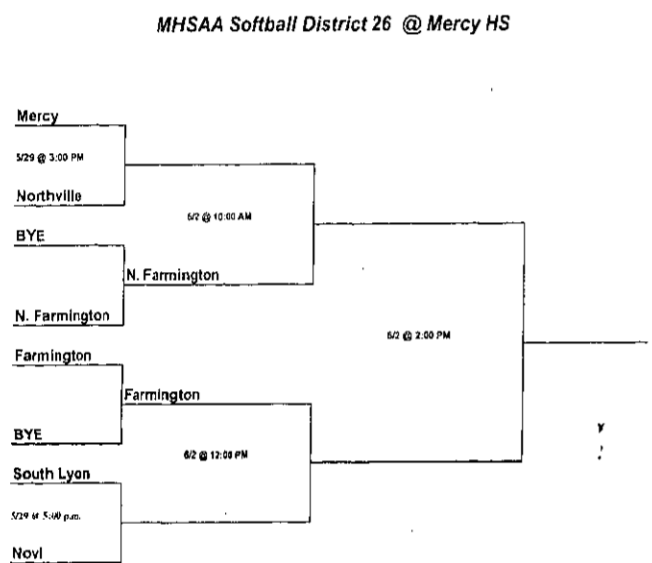
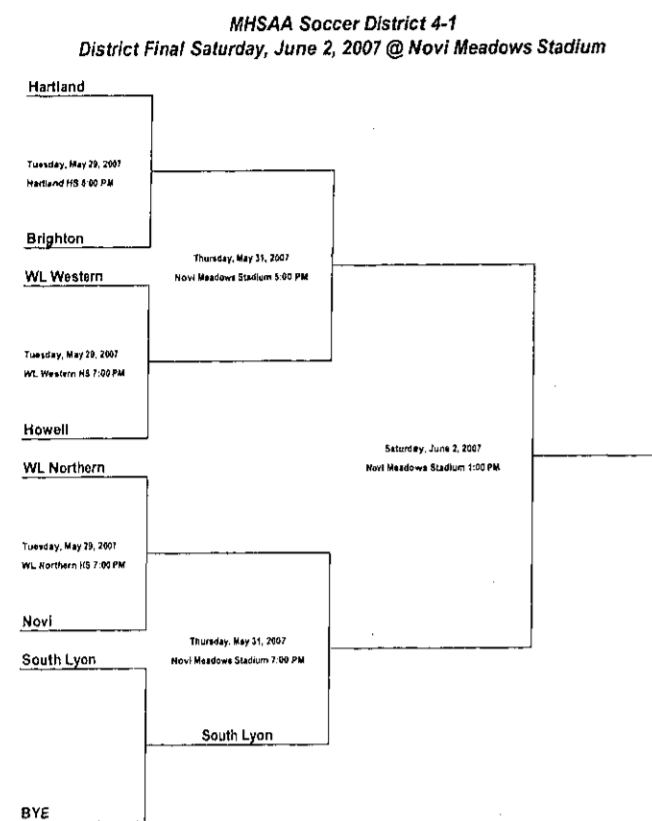
## NOVI NEWS Athlete of the Week

Novi junior Katlyn Shelar, Track

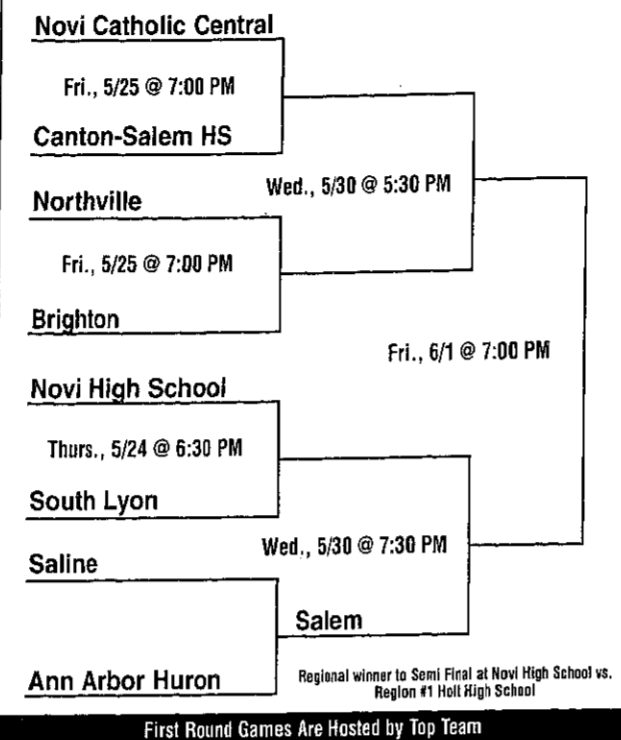
Shelar saved her best jump of the year for the regional meet. She cleared 10-4 Friday at Milford to claim second place, advancing to the state meet. Her previous best jump had been 8-2, an improvement of more than two feet.



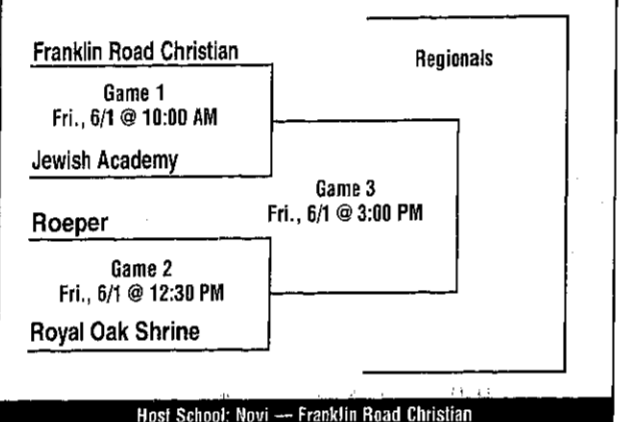
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Regional champs



The Novi tennis team shows off the trophy it claimed by winning the regional tournament. The Wildcats put seven of eight flights in the finals, winning four titles.

**Novi, CC, Northville advance to state**

**By Jeff Thelsen**  
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

The Novi tennis team showed why depth is so important at Friday's home regional meet. The Wildcats scored 27 of a possible 32 points to win the regional, capturing four titles along the way.

Catholic Central placed second with 24 points, winning the other four titles.

Northville also advances to states, reaching the 18 points necessary to move on.

Winning titles for the Wildcats were Roshan Ramachandran at No. 3 singles, Gouthan Kondapi at No. 4 singles, Ryan Goodman and Kevin Lai at No. 2 doubles and Ananya Sahani and Vishnu Venugopal at No. 4 doubles.

All Novi players won at least two matches, and seven of eight Wildcat flights reached the finals.

"We played some excellent tennis in a very tough regional," Novi head coach Jim Hanson said. "I'm very proud. This is only the second regional we've ever won for boys. We won last year also."

"The key thing here is you win and lose at a team... everyone has to contribute."

Catholic Central title winners included Nicholas Carroll at No. 1 singles, Jack Snyder at No. 2 singles, Chris Atallah and Kevin Hager at No. 1 doubles and Ryan Bowring and Sivje Strycharz at No. 3 singles.

Northville stayed alive with balance throughout the team. The Mustangs scored at least two points at every flight, including runner-up finishes by Steve Irvine at No. 4 singles and Kevin Zhang and Phil Irvine at No. 2 doubles.

Novi

The Wildcats won four individual regional titles.

Winning at singles were Ramachandran 6-2, 6-1 over Catholic Central's Samir DeCosta and No. 4 singles Kondapi 6-1, 6-2 against Northville's Steve Irvine.

Doubles winners included No. 2 Goodman and Lai 6-4, 6-0 against Northville's Zhang and Phil Irvine and No. 4 Sahani and Venugopal rallied from a first-set loss to win 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-4 against Catholic Central's Michael Ayoub and Ryan King.

Other Novi results include runner-up finishes by Vivek Athalye at No. 1 singles, Ryan Bell and Adam Doster at No. 1 doubles and Jason Hsu and Justin Farooq at No. 3 doubles.

Mahadevan earned a pair of wins at No. 2 singles.

"It's onto the state finals. It's always interesting. I hope we always as well as we did last year, Hanson said. "The competition is very tough. A lot of it has to do with how your draw goes."

"We've just got to stay sharp and focused and have fun at the same time."

The state finals are June 1-2 at the Midland Community Tennis Center.

**Catholic Central**

The Shamrocks placed six of eight flights into the finals.

25th annual Westside Football Camp from June 18-21 for kids entering grades 5-9. The camp runs 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day at Catholic Central and costs \$180. Registration forms are available online at [www.catholiccentral.net](http://www.catholiccentral.net) or by calling (313) 531-7251.



Novi's Kaitlyn Shelar cleared 10-4 for second place at the regional meet Friday at Milford. She beat her previous best jump by more than two feet.

**Wildcats qualify for state in six events**

**Novi 4x100 record falls at regional meet**

**By Jeff Thelsen**  
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Novi saved some of its best finishes for the regional meet Friday at Milford.

The Wildcats finished fifth of 15 teams and qualified for states in six events, while setting three school records.

Kaitlyn Shelar had the surprise finish of the day, clearing 10-4 in the pole vault to claim second place. Her top jump previous to Friday had been 8-2.

Heather Arniak also placed second in the high jump with a leap of 5-2 to advance.

The new school records all took place in relay events.

The 4x100 team of Brittany Davis, Jenn Felcher, Marina Pihlboos and Monica Barlage finished in 50.8 (previous record was 51.4 in 1976) for fourth place.

The 4x400 team of Emily Hall, Caroline Johnson, Arniak and Andrea Kramer leading the way with a time of 3:30.30, breaking the 4:06.9 in 1998. The same girls ran the 4x800, taking third in 9:32.43, just beating the old record of 9:32.6 from 1998.

Sisson also made states in the 300 hurdles with a fourth-place finish in 46.59.

Sisson now holds the school record in the 100 and 300 hurdles, the 400 meters and is part of the best 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800 relays in Wildcat history.

Andrea Kramer suffered a tough-luck finish in the long jump. She finished an inch shy of qualifying for state. Her sixth-place leap of 16-3 just missed the qualifying length of 16-4.

Novi 77, Hartland 37

The Wildcats also won a rain-shortened meet with Hartland 77-37 on May 15.

The 3,200 meters, 4x400 and the pole vault were not completed because of the weather.

Winning events for the Wildcats were Kim Zerlin in the discus (106-7), Heather Arniak in the high jump (5-0), a clean sweep in the long jump with

Jeff Thelsen can be reached at [jthelsen@gannett.com](mailto:jthelsen@gannett.com) or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Above: Novi's 4x100 team shows off the medals won after rewriting the Wildcat record. Below: Novi's 4x400 team qualified for the state meet with a third-place finish at the regional meet.



**Sport Short**

**Westside Football Camp**

Catholic Central head football coach Tom Mach will hold the

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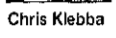
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**On the move**

**Exercise: More than a weight room**

My oldest brother, John, happily includes himself in the majority of the human population (about 80 percent) who are sedentary non-exercisers. Being in the fitness business, our trainers and I take any opportunity to gently push John towards a change of classification to at least the semi-regular exerciser category.



**Chris Klebba**

Recently, on one of the wonderful days of sunshine and warmth, John asks upon his bike to our new club to visit and I immediately complimented him on getting his exercise. He was quick to correct me saying, "No I am not exercising, just taking a fun bike ride on this great day." A few days later he stopped by this time on foot, walking his dog. Again, I tried some positive reinforcement about him exercising and again he responded, "No, I am just walking the dog and enjoying the weather."

After over 20 years in the health and fitness business, it never ceases to amaze me that I continue to learn new lessons daily, and here another strong lesson was before me and it had to do with how the majority of the population views exercise. I began to analyze deeper... let's see, the video game manufacturers can't keep the new "Wii" (virtual video games that simulate actual play) in stock; I think it is because children want to move more or because it is perceived as fun? And what about the popular dance revolution game that you move your feet to the music on pads that grade your score? How about the group of older women I saw yesterday while picking up my daughter from dance class participating in an adult dance class, swaying and laughing or the older gentlemen out throwing horseshoes at a nearby park while talking about the latest world events? Was all this viewed as more exercise or simply as trying to have more fun? I think the majority must view exercise as sweating in an odd style slowly, slowly, slowly, deadlifting weights, doing the slow seconds trick by following by dimming thru some painful and unpleasant lifting of heavy weights.

The moral of this lesson... I propose we all drop the "E" word and its all negative connotations. Let the world be your gym and have fun this summer while moving your body! Grab your child, spouse or a friend and throw horseshoes, do some gardening, fertilize the lawn, wash the car, go fishing, or any other of about a million other activities and we won't even tell you or my brother you are actually, you know, what that "E" word, it will be our little secret. Have fun and MOVE!

This column was written by fitness expert Chris Klebba. Chris runs and operates Pilates Fitness in Northville and Waterford, and is a regular columnist and public speaker. For fitness questions, e-mail c and for more information call 248-449-7634 or go to www.pilatesfitness.com.

**Novi Roundup: Track advances six**

**CC's Martin wins regional shot and discus**

By Jeff Theisen  
NEWS SPORTS WRITER



Wildcat Mark Heard checks his swing and fouls off an inside pitch during Novi's home game against Milford.

Wildcat track advanced six boys from the regional to the state meet. Novi finished with 20 points in the Milford regional Friday.

The 4,800 relay team of Aaron Crowl, Alex Prasad, Scott Wagner and Mike Wheat finished in third (8:03.3) to lead the Wildcats.

Also moving on are Eric Preston with a sixth-place finish in the pole vault (12-7) and Mike Heard with a 10th-place finish in the 3,200 meters (9:41.7).

Several other Wildcats earned medals but did not qualify for states.

John Browa was fourth in the shot put (47-3.5), the 4x100 relay team of Dan Simmons, Danny Zhang, Tyler Barnes and Arshawn Hall finished sixth (44:84), Eric VanBuhler placed seventh in the 300 hurdles (4:20.1), and Hall placed eighth in the long jump (19.45).

**Novi Soccer**  
The Novi soccer team roared past Milford 6-0 Friday, improving to 15-1-1 and 10-0 in the KVC.

Courtney Milton started the scoring off a give-and-go from Alyssa Fraser halfway through the first half. With five minutes to go in the half, Katie Chalkos scored on a through ball from Emily Edstrook for a 2-0 half-time lead.

Esbrook, Jessica Barndt, Kristina Chalkos, Stephanie Crawford and Stephanie Janssens were honored on senior night at the half.

Crawford exploded for three goals in the first 10 minutes of the second half on assists from Barndt, Esbrook and Katie Chalkos.

Fraser added a goal a few minutes later from Jamie Fratz to cap the scoring.

Erin Zerio made four saves for her 10th shutout.

**Novi Softball**  
The Novi softball team played tough but went 1-4 at the Madonna tournament over the weekend. The Wildcats rebounded with a pair of wins against South Lyon on Monday.

At the Madonna tournament, Lincoln Park handed Novi its first loss, 1-0. Brittany Luka threw a two-hitter, but an unearned run came across in the fifth inning to give the Panthers a 1-0 lead. Novi fell runners on second and third in the seventh inning.

Luka came back strong in the second game, and the Wildcats beat Salem 1-0. Luka allowed three hits and a walk. Lauren Shear walked and came around to score in the first inning for the lone run.

In the third game, Anchor Bay scored a run in the fourth and two more in the sixth for a 3-0

victory. Anchor Bay won the tournament.

Plymouth won the fourth game, 3-1, and Airport handed the Wildcats a 13-6 loss in four innings in the final game.

Novi turned things around in a hurry, beating South Lyon 6-3 and 3-1 Monday.

Luka pitched both games, striking out 10 and allowing three hits in the first game and five hits with second strikeouts in the nightcap.

Paige Henley had a double and three RBIs in the 300 hurdles, and Amanda Diacono hit a double and knocked in two runs in the second game.

**Novi Baseball**

The Novi baseball team kept an extremely busy schedule over the last two weeks, playing 11 games in less than 14 days.

On May 11, Novi beat Howell 4-3 and 6-5 in nine innings. Brett Glover, Mark Heard and Mike Slack each had two hits and an RBI in the first game. Tyler Scott went the distance on the mound, allowing five hits and three walks with 12 strikeouts.

On May 12, Novi beat Howell 4-3 and 6-5 in nine innings. Heard went all nine innings, allowing seven hits, four walks and four earned runs with seven strikeouts.

The Wildcats scored a run in the seventh to tie it at three. Howell ahead 5-3 in the eighth and two outs for the Wildcats. Kijger reached on a hit, Slack and Danny Pilgion each walked and Garrett Green hit a two-run single to tie the game back up.

Brandon Schwanz reached on a single, stole second and laid scored on an error to win it.

On May 12, Allen Park turned a 2-0 lead in the sixth in a 7-1 victory. Pilgion suffered the loss, allowing four earned runs in 5 1/3 innings pitched.

The Wildcats played Trenton on the same day, winning 3-1 with a run in the first and two more in the third. Place threw the first six innings and picked up the win. Matt Hohenshil threw a scoreless seventh for the save. Green and Schlenke led the offense with three RBIs and three runs. Dan Kijger and Green each had two hits and two runs.

On May 15, Novi played Pinckney again, winning 12-2 and leading 5-0 in the bottom of the third in a suspended game that will be finished May 31.

In the first game, Ryan Figurski earned the win, going 4 1/3 innings, allowing two hits and six walks with three strikeouts. Glover, Schlenke and

going," Walters said. "We know we have our work cut out for us, but the kids come to CC because they want to play against the best or with the best."

"We're certainly going to go after them."

Catholic Central has come on in the latter part of the year and improved to 12-18. The Shamrocks started the year with two freshmen and seven sophomores on the roster and might be playing their best ball at the right time of the year.

"We didn't do too well this year. We lost a lot of close ballgames," Walters said. "But we've won six of our final eight (through the weekend)."

The two top pitchers are Andy Omilian (3-3, 3.92 ERA) and Billy Hardin (2-6, 2.86 ERA).

Leading hitters are Cory Amble at 433, Jake Hanson at 351, Hardin at 337 (leading RBI man with 19) and Doug Raymond at 321.

"Billy Hardin is our only three-year player on the squad," Walters said. "He has done a nice job pitching for us, playing the field and hitting, but we're starting to get some of the other guys swinging the bat."

Jeff Theisen can be reached at [jtheisen@gannett.com](mailto:jtheisen@gannett.com) or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Mandeville had four goals and



Novi's Amanda Diacono is ready to step to the plate as the Wildcats prep for the playoffs.

**SOFTBALL: Luka leads 'Cats**

continued from front

Novi, and Luka knows his team must take advantage of every opportunity offensively.

But in a one-game elimination format, anything can happen. If Luka shuts a team down and the offense can't put some runs on the board, Novi could be capable of making a run.

"I think we may be the surprise team in our district," Luka said. "I could be wrong, but I feel that we're playing a lot differently."

The girls have definitely been playing some great ball," Chranowski said. "They really should be confident going into districts."

"A lot of people are getting it going when we need them to."

The draw was untidy to the Mustangs. They drew Mercy in the first round (3 p.m. Tuesday at Mercy).

"It is a tough draw, so we'll have to be able to come off the holiday weekend ready to play," Chranowski said. "The way we're playing right now, if they keep playing like that, we could beat anyone."

"So far, we couldn't have asked for more. We've had a great year. Hopefully, we'll continue that on as far as we can."

Jeff Theisen can be reached at [jtheisen@gannett.com](mailto:jtheisen@gannett.com) or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Catholic Central's Mike Dunleavy brings the ball upfield against Ann Arbor Huron.

**Novi Lacrosse finishes regular season on fire**

Submitted by Craig Hepler

The Wildcats finished their regular season with three goals and two assists. Hepler again came up with a nice effort to record nine saves. Kevin Rowe extended his team leading ground ball totals with eight more takeaways.

Novi also knocked off Brighton and Walled Lake Northern.

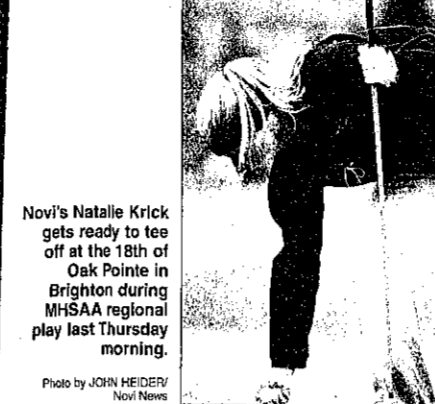
**Novi 11, Brighton 5**  
Novi started the week with an 11-5 win against the Brighton Bulldogs on May 14. The game featured hat tricks for both Craig Howell and Travis Blackledge. Goalie Eric Hepler had a strong showing with 11 saves.

**Novi 15, Walled Lake Northern 3**  
The Wildcats played their regular season finale Friday at home against the Walled Lake Northern Knights. Novi again reigned supreme with a 15-3 victory. Howell scored five while Blackledge and Mandeville each scored three and Rowe had another six ground balls. Junior goalie Kyle Simons showed that the future is safe for the Wildcats with a four-save shutout in the second half.

Friday was also Senior Night as Novi honored its graduating seniors in a ceremony at halftime. This year's honorees were Brad Poposky, Pat Russell, Robert Nagler, Nick Zoraya, Travis Blackledge, Ryan Lemieux, Kevin Rowe and Eric Hepler.

Novi starts its playoff run 6:30 p.m. tonight with a game against South Lyon at Novi High School.

Mandeville had four goals and



Novi's Natale Krick gets ready to tee off at the 18th of Oak Pointe in Brighton during MHSAA regional play last Thursday morning.

**Wildcats finish sixth at regional**

The Wildcat golf team finished sixth of 17 teams at the regional May 17 at Oak Pointe in Brighton, Mercy, Brighton and Northville were the teams to advance to state.

Natale Krick led the Wildcats with an 88. Asako Akamatsu was next with a 90, followed by Megan Wenzl with 90 and Ashley Simms with a 104.



Wildcat Asako Akamatsu tees off at 18 at Brighton's Oak Pointe Country Club during MHSAA playoffs.



Wildcat Ashley Simms uses an iron to get closer to the pin during MHSAA regional play at Brighton's Oakpointe Country Club.

**Shamrocks blast Huron**

Submitted to the Novi News

It was a beautiful spring day on the Catholic Central campus last week made even sweeter by a landslide 14-4 win over the Ann Arbor Hurons.

The Shamrocks were led by their All American captain, Patrick Nemes, who scored four goals and added another three assists. But Nemes wasn't alone in the Royal Blue and White attack. Connor Bush and Zack Menard added several goals and assists of their own to chase the Hurons back to Ann Arbor.

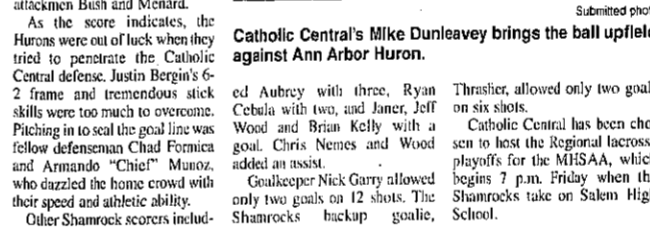
The frustrated Huron defense allowed 14 goals on a barrage of shots and goals by Matt Aubrey, Brad Janer, Jake Christensen and Higgie. Two of the goals were scored by Nemes behind the back after taking pin-point passes from attackers Bush and Menard.

As the score indicates, the Hurons were out of luck when they tried to penetrate the Catholic Central defense. Justin Bergin's 6-2 frame and tremendous stick skills were too much to overcome. Pitching in to seal the goal line was fellow defenseman Chad Forman and Armando "Chief" Munoz, who dazzled the home crowd with their speed and athletic ability.

Other Shamrock scorers included Aubrey with three, Ryan Cetuba with two, and Janer, Jeff Wood and Brian Kelly with a goal. Chris Nemes and Wood added an assist.

Goalkeeper Nick Garry allowed only two goals on 12 shots. The Shamrocks' backup goalie, Thrasher, allowed only two goals on six shots.

Catholic Central has been chosen to host the Regional lacrosse playoffs for the MHSAA, which begins 7 p.m. Friday when the Shamrocks take on Salem High School.



Catholic Central's Mike Dunleavy brings the ball upfield against Ann Arbor Huron.



Shamrock Armando "Chief" Munoz controls the ball against Ann Arbor Huron.



Submitted photo

**Rush to success!**  
The Michigan Rush Girls U11 Nike team took first place, playing five games at the Northern Ohio Cup Tournament. Pictured, from top left, coach Paul Snape, Rachel Minick, Jenny Willerer, Anna Giacomin, Emily Gerulis, Emily Holbrook, Kelly Wright, Abby Whitehead and coach Liz DiPonio. Bottom row: Gabby Mencotti, Suzie Redick, Rachel Coleman, Paige Pesci and Haley Notarantonio.



Submitted photo

**Midland champs!**  
The Michigan Rush 12-year-old girls soccer team won the Midland Invite on May 11-13. Standing, from left, are Makenzie Williams, Taylor Breaull, Clare Townsend, Jessica Green, Anna Hinrichs, Bailey Lehman and coach Pat Griffin. Kneeling are Jenna Abraham, Kelly Johnson, Maddie Chlado, Eliza Burnstein, Vanessa Cousino and laying in front is Grace DeRidder. Not pictured is coach Tony Deacono.

2:15-3:45 p.m. July 23-27 at the Novi Middle School. The camp costs \$68 and will concentrate on all shooting aspects with awards being given to contest winners.

The boys and girls K-2 camp will run 8:30-10 a.m. for one class and 10:15-11:45 a.m. for another class July 23-27 at Novi Middle School. The cost is \$68 for each class and will teach the basic skills of basketball.

The camp is run by Wildcat head coach Bill Kelp.

The fee is \$140, and registration begins April 16 by calling Novi Community Education at (248) 449-1206.

**Novi girls basketball camp**  
The Novi basketball camp for girls in grades 2-9 will take place June 18-22.

An emphasis will be placed on all game phases including dribbling, shooting, pivoting, faking, rebounding, team play, sportsmanship, and an introduction to the Lady Wildcats offensive and defensive schemes. Gym clothes and shoes are required. All participants will receive a T-shirt and outdoor basketball.

The camp for grades 2-5 will run from 8:30 a.m.-noon each day in the fieldhouse. The camp for grades 6-9 will run from 1-4:30 p.m.

The camp is run by Wildcat head coach Bill Kelp.

The fee is \$140, and registration begins April 16 by calling Novi Community Education at (248) 449-1206.

**BASEBALL: Novi, Catholic Central hope to play best ball in district**

continued from front

plate. Brandon Schwanz has also provided a big bat throughout the year.

"Pat Schlenke has really been consistent the whole season," Green said. "He's been coming up with some big hits."

Defensively, Green says his team is playing much better and has helped the team climb back over .500.

"I think we're ready to compete," Green said. "We're finally over .500 and we're looking good going into districts. Hopefully it will carry over."

**Northville**  
Northville comes in as one of the hottest teams in the state. They started 2-4 and are 26-4 heading into the WLLAA playoffs.

Pitching, and plenty of it, has been the key to the Mustangs' success. The aces are Bryce Jenney and Bret Spencer.

"Bret and Bryce, they've thrown in the district three solid years," Northville head coach John Kostzewa said. "They know things hang on one pitch or play."

"With this being a one-game elimination, they've been down that road before."

But also on the staff are Mike Deluca with a perfect 5-0 record and Nick Balow at 4-0.

The offense is powered by eight batters

with 30 or more at bats hitting over .300. Gerard Powell leads the way with a .391 average. Joe Mitchell is next at .364, with Spencer (.360) and Jenney (.347) and a team-high 26 RBIs closely behind.

The Mustangs have plenty of pop at the plate, smashing out 17 home runs and 67 extra-base hits with a team average of .319.

"Guys have chipped in all year long, from the top of the order to the bottom," Kostzewa said. "That's what you've got to do to win consistently — have guys step up."

Kostzewa knows his team will have a big bulls-eye on its back, but it's been there all season.

"We have enough experienced players in key positions that have been there before," Kostzewa said. "When it's one game, anything can happen. Because we've been in a variety of situations, I think they're prepared for things we have to do in those situations."

"We never, ever panic."

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# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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ADVERTISEMENT

## Heritage Place offers the best in life

By Kate Phillips  
SPECIAL WRITER

With opening day only a month away, the apartments at Heritage Place at Ridge Valley are going fast. With eight different floor plans, residents are signing on now to receive the floor plan of their choice and even pick out the floor and location they prefer.

Heritage Place at Ridge Valley is a community for mature adults age 55+ that is located in beautiful Milford Township.

The most popular floor plans and special locations like corner units with windows on two sides are selling out quickly.

"I would suggest those who are interested in Heritage Place sign on now so they can pick the floor plan they like and get the best location," said Community Manager Avery Eenigenburg. "Then you can have peace of mind knowing that your home will be ready and waiting for you."

An open house featuring each floor plan will be set up next month, which will likely start a flood of applications, Avery said. Those that are interested in getting a jump start can visit the model and leasing office, which are open seven days a week.

### CUSTOMIZED CONVENIENCES

More reasonable prices set apart Heritage Place of Ridge Valley from other senior communities. Many are shocked when they see the monthly lease rates at Heritage Place — which are half or even a quarter of what is charged elsewhere.

Conventional monthly rent starts at \$900 for a one-bedroom unit at Heritage Place. Large two-bedroom units start at \$1,275.

For those who don't think they can afford the conventional monthly rental rates, reduced rental rates are available for a limited number of apartments for households who do not exceed a specified maximum annual income.

"I encourage people to shop around and see what the prices are at other places," said Avery, who takes care of the property's leasing and community management. She works with property management company KMG Prestige, a large, professional property management company in Michigan. "They'll be shocked when they see the prices out there. For the conveniences we offer our rates are competitive. I personally think they are the best in this area."

Prices at Heritage Place are kept reasonable by offering a unique option to traditional "senior" living. Residents are able to customize their lifestyle by choosing from an array of optional services and features, including in-unit washers and dryers and underground parking. Cable, phone and Internet packages will also be available. The ability to customize allows residents to



Submitted Photo

Heritage Place at Ridge Valley in Milford is a new apartment community for adults age 55+ that allows residents to customize their lifestyle with optional services and features, including in-unit laundry, underground parking, cable, phone, internet and more.

choose the conveniences they want without paying for the ones they don't.

With reasonable prices it's easier for residents to travel, dine out and spend money on the things they like to do. Those who love to golf, fish, swim or play tennis will find all of those options nearby in Milford, but they won't be stuck paying for them if they aren't a golfer or tennis player.

"Our goal is to enable people to leave the lifestyle they want, but still leave them with the financial resources to do the things that they love," said Avery.

The prices of apartment living also can offer significant savings for those who may be facing costly home repairs or condominium assessments.

### LUXURIOUS LIVING

Heritage Place is more than just a home — it's a community. Avery is working to create a close-knit community where neighbors know each other and feel comfortable gathering for a chat, a game of cards, or a cup of coffee.

It's a lovely home for mature adults who are looking for a friendly place to enjoy — whether they are working or retired.

The comfortable gathering places will make it easy to find others with similar interests. Those who love working with their hands will naturally meet in the craft and hobby room. Readers will love wandering away the afternoon in the library. The computer center is likely to be a busy place, where seniors can surf the Web and send e-mail. The ever-popular games of Bingo and cards will make the community room a fun place to hang out.

"We offer something for everyone and certainly encourage residents to

make suggestions for activities and socials they like," said Avery. "We'll have programs that residents are interested in, but I think mostly these areas will be fun places for people to gather and pursue their interests."

The fitness room will offer "senior friendly" work-out equipment and a billiards room will be a favorite hang-out for pool sharks. Those who are movie buffs or armchair athletes may choose to spend their time in the mini-movie theater, where movies, sports and popcorn will be available throughout the day and evening.

A large dining room will provide the option of catered meals and a private dining room can even be reserved for private parties.

Even pet lovers will enjoy Heritage Place. Small dogs are welcome!

### MEETING YOUR NEEDS

While most residents are in good health, Heritage Place is prepared to suit those who may begin to experience increased needs as they age.

Local developer RL Milford, Inc., has considered the needs of mature adults at every age and health status. One of the foremost considerations is that the building will be designated as "smoke-free."

The location chosen for the 131-unit building was also key, because Heritage Place is just a couple blocks north of downtown Milford which is filled with restaurants and premier shopping. A van from the local senior center is available to drive those who can't walk to the shopping areas.

Those who are less mobile will have everything they need on-site, from a laundry room to a hair salon and barber shop. Deliveries will also be made by a local pharmacy.

A health center managed by Interim Health Care will bring medical professionals to Heritage Place. Seniors will have the convenience of visiting a doctor, chiropractor, podiatrist or massage therapist right on site. Should residents need in-home medical care or personal care services, such as medication reminders or help with housekeeping and laundry, they will still be able to stay in their home with the in-home care options provided by Interim Health Care.

The apartments are also designed with safety in mind. Emergency pull-cords are installed in each bedroom and bath. Those experiencing a medical emergency can pull a cord to alert emergency personal right away. Bathrooms are equipped with safety bars and low, easy-step bathtubs and some floor plans are available with walk-in showers as well.

There are also floor plans that are wheelchair accessible with wider doorways, lower cabinets and sinks, plus roll-in showers.

### HERITAGE PLACE OF RIDGE VALLEY

Apartment Community for age 55+

700 Napa Valley Drive, Milford off Milford Road

(248) 676-2121

www.hp-rv.com

www.mykmg.net

Underground parking is even available for an extra charge, so residents can drive into the garage and take an elevator to their apartment without ever stepping into rain or snow.

### CONSIDERING A MOVE?

Those who are getting tired of mowing lawns, shoveling sidewalks and raking leaves — or just can't do it anymore — will find that life is a breeze at Heritage Place. Time-consuming jobs like weeding, washing windows and cleaning gutters are eliminated.

Residents will love to enjoy the beautifully landscaped grounds and country setting of Heritage Place — all the while maintaining a sense of community!

For many, the costs saved on home maintenance are worth the move. Residents will never face unexpected bills for a new roof or furnace like they may in an older home or condominium.

Many residents aren't sure whether they should move if they haven't yet sold their home. Avery suggests that when residents sign their lease while the home is still on the market, they have the added benefit of being able to gradually move in, rather than rushing to finish or paying rental fees on the home they sold.

### TAKE A LOOK

Come check out a beautifully furnished model apartment and speak with Avery about the possibilities at Heritage Place. The leasing office is located one driveway south of Heritage Place, in Suite 105, located in the rear of the Re/Max Classic Office Center.

The leasing office is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Appointments are appreciated but not necessary.

Heritage Place is being developed by Raymond Leduc, President of RL Milford Inc. in partnership with Michael Lerner of Development Consulting Services and is being managed by KMG Prestige.



Photo by KATE PHILLIPS

Community Manager Avery Eenigenburg shows off a beautiful model apartment at Heritage Place of Ridge Valley.

PICK OUT YOURS BY MAY 31 & RECEIVE A FREE GIFT!



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