



District Champs!
Novi ladies clinch soccer title
once again Sports 1B



Field Fun!
End-of-the-year school events in full swing ... Page 9A

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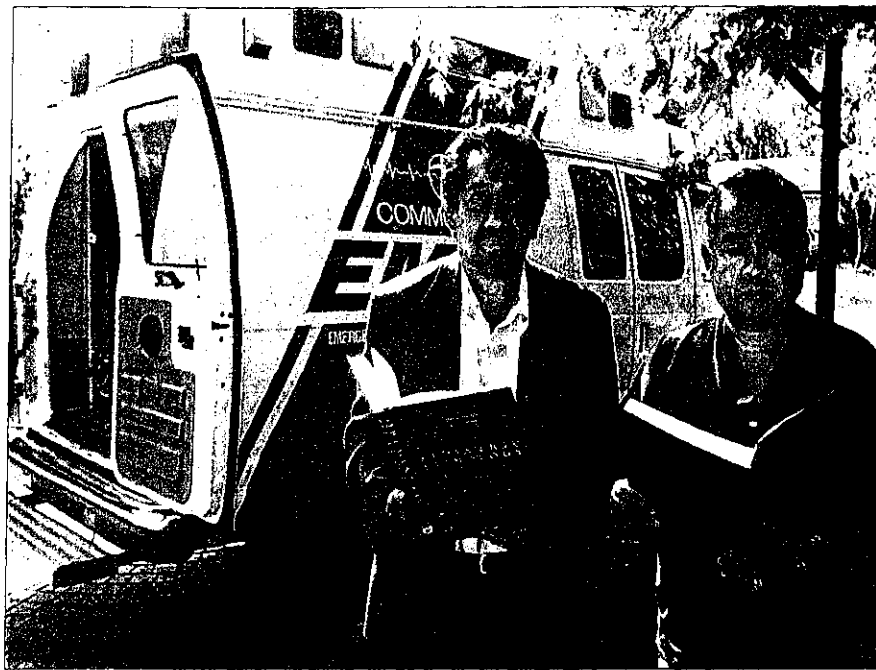
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Novi News

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2007

WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

VOLUME 51 #54 50 CENTS



Dr. Ernest Bedia, left, and RN Van Ong teamed together to ship this ambulance to the Philippines next winter along with a collection of medical school textbooks. They're part of the Fareastern and American Nurses Association.

Providing relief for others

By Greg Miglore
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Van Ong has seen plenty of gruesome injuries in his 35 years as a nurse — much of it spent working in the pressurized world of emergency rooms. But it pales in comparison to

what he's seen on the relief missions he organizes. He's quick to tick off graphic examples, including a story of a girl burned so badly her legs were fused together.

And it's the horrific stories that drive Ong to go back. He's led four missions through the

Far Eastern and American Nurses Association of Great Lakes. The next one is scheduled for the Philippines in January 2008. He's already secured a donated ambulance and is filling it with medical supplies and equipment. Ong came to the United States

from the Philippines in 1971 and has lived in Novi for 22 years. He's 60 and had a stroke three years ago. With the end of his career in sight, he says the missions are a way of giving back. "Very few people are thinking

Continued on 2

Teacher of the year

■ Linda LaPorte wins top honors

By Chris Jackett
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Lisa LaPorte won the Novi Community Schools Teacher-of-the-Year award by listening to her own lesson.

"The fast and true is 'are you doing the best with what you've got?' You may not be having a great day, but do as best you can," said the sixth grade math and science teacher from Novi Meadows. "It's very difficult to get kids not to settle, to see their potential."

LaPorte, a teacher at Meadows

for 17 years, has been working hard to bring out her students' potential. "She tries to see every student as an individual and holds them accountable, but reaches out to their social and emotional needs," said David Ascher, a first grade teacher at Parkview Elementary who had spent four years teaching alongside LaPorte.

Ascher signed the nomination for LaPorte's award, which came with a one-year lease on a 2007 Nissan Ultima donated by Suburban Collection.

"Lisa exemplifies what many other Novi teachers do and are," Ascher said. "She wants school to be a fun place where kids can learn in a professional learning community where teachers work

Continued on 3



Students applaud as their instructor, Linda LaPorte, is named Novi School District Teacher of the Year.



Former participants of the The Novi Youth Police Academy take aim during the summer program.

Novi Police prepare for youth academy

Kelly Murad
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Novi Police Department is going beyond protecting the citizens; they are influencing the youth. For the second consecutive year, the Novi Police Department is hosting a Youth Police Academy summer program for teenagers, between 13 and 18.

The program, which is free, is available to teens that live in Novi or attend Novi schools. The only requirements for interested teens are they must fill out and submit an application, as well as undergo

a mandatory criminal background check. Applicants who pass the background test will receive an acceptance letter in the mail.

Although many kids grow up dreaming of being a police officer, very few truly understand everything that is involved with a career in law enforcement. The 5-day program, which is held at the Novi Police Department, consists of a variety of courses and activities pertaining to the law enforcement field.

"They get to learn everything about the police department and they have a good time," said Mike

Wilson, school resource officer of Novi High School.

The students will not only learn about patrol operations, traffic laws and the judicial system, but they will also be simulating traffic stops, K-9 demonstrations and firearm training. F.A.T.S. (Firearm Training System) is a simulation that allows the teens to experience shoot/don't shoot situations, while using guns that shoot lasers.

"It is like a big video game," Wilson said.

The program is limited to about 30 students, so teens are

encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

"We had great results last year," Wilson said. "A lot of the kids that went through it last year, want to do it again this year." Wilson is only going to allow those students into the academy for the second time, if there is room in the class.

For Wilson, extending the length of the academy is what he hopes to do in the future. But for now, the week-long program will be from noon to 4 p.m. July 16-20. "The purpose of the pro-

Continued on 4

My Novi News
It's all about you!

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NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER

FRIDAY

Lynn Henning will be signing copies of his latest book "Spartan Seasons II" 7-9 p.m. today at Borders Books and Music, 43075 Crescent Blvd. Henning's book is the sequel to "Spartan Season: Triumphs and Turmoil of Michigan State Sports." Henning is a sports reporter for the Detroit News. For more information, call (248) 347-0780.



SATURDAY

The Novi High School Class of 2007 graduation ceremony will take place 7 p.m. today at Computware Sports Arena, 14900 Beck Road in Plymouth. The ceremony will be immediately followed by The Novi High School Class of 2007 Senior All Night Party. Members of the community are invited to preview the party location anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. today at the school. Please enter through the Auditorium doors off of 10 Mile Road.

SUNDAY

The Novi Library is closed on Sundays now through the

summer. This gives residents a chance to visit many of the city's parks. From playscapes to athletic fields to trails, the city has you covered. For park locations, visit www.cityofnovi.org.

My Novi Bulletin Board

Novi's official events calendar. Page 18A.



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SECOND FRONT

Thursday, June 7, 2007
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Water costs rise

City officials approve rate increase

Kelly Murad
NEWS STAFF WRITER

The Novi City Council unanimously approved a proposed water and sewer rate increase for the 2007-08 fiscal year during its Monday, June 4 meeting.

Residents with both city water and sewer will see, on average, a 7.7 percent increase, making the average residents quarterly bill increase nearly \$1.

"Most people in Novi have both water and sewer, but there are some areas that have septic fields," said Finance Director

Kathy Smith-Roy. "If they are on a septic system, they do not pay sewer. If they are on city water then they pay water."

City Manager Clay Pearson said the City of Novi, who purchases its water and sewer services from Detroit Water and Sewerage, does not have much control over the increase.

The rate increase, which is primarily based on the rates that the city is being charged by Detroit Water and Sewerage, includes a standard 15 percent administration fee that has been added into the cost of the water rates. This cost covers things such as, inspection fees, maintenance, equipment and system operations.

"The City buys water in bulk," Pearson said. "We are responsible for operating, maintaining

and testing it." The operating and maintaining fees vary throughout the city, depending on if the service is for private or public streets.

"We have different standards of inspection for public, versus private, streets," Pearson said. Novi residents most often pay metered rates based on usage for water and sewer. However, there is a small percentage of people that are part of the Huron Rouge sewer district and pay an unmetered sewer rate.

The flat rate for those residents will remain the same for the 2007-08 year.

Kelly Murad is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 103 or at kmurad@gannett.com.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Thank you!

Volunteers gather for punch and cookies as they're recognized by Novi Meadows for donating time to the school. Volunteers were recognized by the school administration and given note pads with thank-yous written by the students.

Providing relief for others
Continued from front

about the other side of the world, and I'm in a position to do something about it," said Ong, a manager of emergency medicine for Henry Ford Health System.

He leads about 60 volunteers who pay their own way to go to the Philippines. They will perform medical procedures, ranging from routine checkups, to major surgery. At the moment, 10 people are waiting for heart bypasses from Ong's volunteers.

"I hope that they're still alive when we arrive," he said.

The group will also have behind the ambulance, which has thousands of American miles on it — but is essentially brand new in the Philippines — where bicycles are the primary common mode of transportation in some areas.

"It's the garbage of America, but a gold mine to a third world country," he said.

It will take the ambulance about five weeks to get there, and costs about \$12,000 to ship.

The horrors of the injuries and the need for care drive Ong to go back to the Philippines. But it's not all doom and gloom.

Though he points to the story of the burned girl whose legs fused together as an example of poor medical care in the Philippines — it's also an illustration of the difference the relief workers make. They were able to split her legs with surgery, and she recovered. She's also about to get married.

"In me, one example is worth the work we've been doing there," he said.

Open House - Saturday June 9, 11:00 am-3:00 pm

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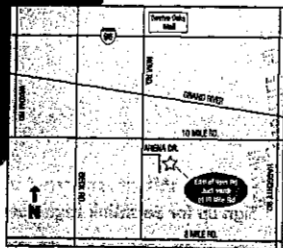
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FREE YOGA CLASSES

My Novi, briefly

Library bond
Members of the Novi City Council unanimously supported the Approval of Resolution for Library Bond Construction (cost of replacing the existing library school) proposal and set the \$16 million ballot proposal for the November 6, 2007 General Election.

Bulgarian Interns
As part of the International City/County Management Association's Local Economic Development (LED) CityLinks Program in Bulgaria, Dimitar Petrushev, from the Municipality of Strijitsa, and Asan Ivanov from the Municipality of Gostio Delchev, will spend their time in Novi through June 10 gaining hands-on experience in U.S. economic development tools and techniques that may be adapted to the Bulgarian environment upon their return. A large part of the internship will involve job shadowing, which will provide the interns with a typical day's work of an economic developer in the U.S. They will also attend council meetings to give them a perspective on how elected officials interact with staff, citizens and businesses in their communities. They will also provide insights into ways that Novi can provide services to a wide range of cultural communities and increase its international magnetism.

Evening in the Gardens Series "Garden Photography"

DATE: Saturday, June 16
TIME: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (note time change)
DETAILS: This additional workshop, offered by the MSU Extension Service-Oakland County, will be conducted on the MSU Tollgate Education Center grounds. Students will practice photographic techniques for deliberate framing, varied exposures, compensating for imperfect light and more. The class, taught by Steve Nikkila, includes a lecture, hands-on photography session and critique. Bring your camera. Digital format required to have your photos included in critique session. Cost is \$30. Registration information available online at www.msue.msue.edu. Class supported by the Novi Historical Commission.

A closer look

In a ceremony last month at Novi Meadows School, sixth grade teacher Lisa LaPorte was named Novi Community Schools "Teacher of the Year."

LaPorte has been teaching at Novi Meadows since 1990. Coworkers and those close to LaPorte said she is dedicated to teaching and helping her students grow, as demonstrated by her involvement in extracurricular activities, including an after-school math club that she founded and runs.

LaPorte is also a member of the school district's math committee, the state's content advisory committee for math and the Novi Meadows Achievement Team. She is a teacher representative for the PTO and is a mentor to student interns. She has represented Novi Meadows for six years on the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement.

Fellow teachers, coworkers, parents and students nominated LaPorte for this recognition due to her professionalism, compassion and dedication to her students and her career.

Tim Falls, principal at Novi Meadows, notes that LaPorte has a keen ability to teach her students to view obstacles as learning opportunities and encourages them to take responsibility for their own learning.

As an added bonus to this high honor, The Suburban Collection is rewarding LaPorte with a free one-year lease on a vehicle.

For the sixth year, The Suburban Collection is rewarding Novi's top teacher with the free one-year lease.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Novi Meadows instructor Linda LaPorte, gesturing to her students, is named Novi School District Teacher of the Year.

Linda LaPorte wins top honors

Continued from front

together to increase student achievement."

LaPorte keeps a busy schedule. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she serves on various district and state education boards.

She also plays the role of a student at home as she raises four children, Adam, 15; Kelly, 12; Matthew, 10, and Benjamin, 7, with her husband David, a computer programmer at UNISYS in Plymouth.

In her spare time, LaPorte

scribbles, reads, does puzzles, walks and goes swimming at the Livonia Recreation Center. However, it would be more likely to find her spending time with her family playing games, reading, having dinner and camping.

"We spend an entire hour at dinner with the boys trying to see who can make each other laugh hard enough to have milk come out their nose," she said.

Family has always had an impact on LaPorte's life. Growing up, her father's job with the government kept the family on the move, spending most of their time living in Romeo and Northwoods, Wis.

"I was six out of seven kids and there were plenty of summers I was the student in 'let's play school,'" she said.

Growing up, LaPorte had several other influences on how she behaved.

"A teacher in high school had a big impact on me in understanding students, not in the academic sense and not as a number," she said. "My swim coach in high school was a phenomenal person and made a big difference. I learned how to treat people and get kids to work together."

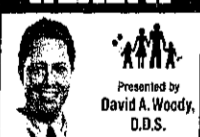
She said with role models of this sort, her perspective and behaviors were set. After graduat-

ing from Michigan State University in 1989 with a degree in elementary education, she was glad to find a job in Novi.

"It's nice, in general, that so many people value our jobs, especially in a time when jobs are at a premium in our state. Many people do what I do and aren't recognized, so it's bittersweet," she said, adding, "I love doing what I do. I love teaching as much now as I did when I started and a lot of people can't say that about their jobs."

Chris Juckett is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjuckett@gannett.com.

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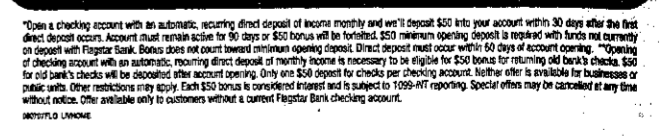
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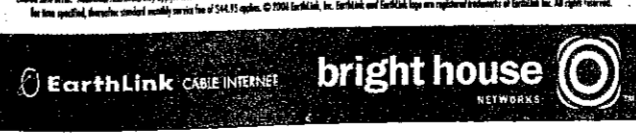
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MY PUBLIC SAFETY



Thursday, June 7, 2007
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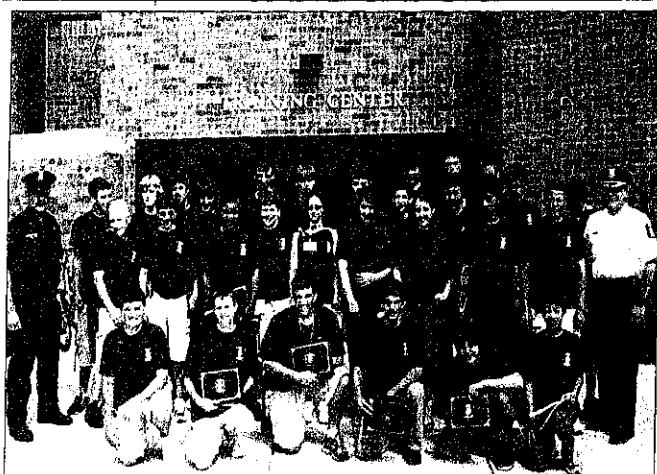
Novi Police prepare for youth academy

Continued from front

grant) is to educate and increase their understanding of what we do and develop relationships with the kids," Wilson said.

As a kid, police officers seem like real-life superheroes. But as kids become teens, something changes and the superhero begins to feel like the enemy. No one knows where this negative perception comes from, but the Novi Police Department is determined to break the barrier between today's youth and law enforcement officials.

"It is positive interaction with the police officer's and our youth here in the city," Wilson said.



Members of last year's Novi Youth Police Academy gather together displaying their participation certificates.

Kelly Munn is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 103 or by e-mail at kmunn@novinews.com.

Novi Youth Police Academy

Who: Youth 13-18, living in Novi, or attending Novi Schools
When: July 16-20
Time: Noon-4 p.m.
Where: The Novi Police Department, 45125 W. 10 Mile Road
How: Pick-up application at Novi Police Department or contact Officer Mike Wilson at (248) 347-0538



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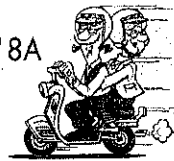
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NOVI SENIORS: Check out your section of the Novi News events calendar, page 18A

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MY SENIOR LIFE



Thursday, June 7, 2007
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Preparing for the big review

By Tracy Mishler
SPECIAL NEWS WRITER

The show must go on and George Giese hasn't missed one yet.

The 82-year-old Novi resident and his wife, Caroline, 92, have spent the past 13 years performing in the Novi Senior Theater and can't wait to get the ball rolling on this year's show, "Hit Parade."

Based on the popular tunes broadcasted on both radio and television from the 1930s, 40s and 50s, Hit Parade aired all the top musical hits many seniors are familiar with today.

"That's the era of music I remember the best and liked the best," Giese said. "It brings back some memories, that's for sure."

Giese said he and his wife both take part in the senior shows and can't wait to find out what part he will be performing this year. "Being on stage is wonderful," he said. "Before we go on, we get antsy trying to remember all our words."

"We get nervous, but it all goes away. Once the spotlights are on, it all goes away."

This year's senior variety series will feature both men and women wearing tuxedos and evening gowns while dancing and singing their hearts away in memory of several top hits, including music by Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland.

Directed by Debbie Lannen, performing arts coordinator for the Novi Theatre, rehearsals for "Hit Parade" start this week and run until show time, with six performances, in September.

Lannen said though rehearsals started Monday, she welcomes anyone interested in performing to sign up.

"There are no auditions," she said. "If you want to be in it, you're in."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

New Novi Theatre Director Debbie Lannen talks to an assembly of seniors this past Monday as they begin to plan their upcoming variety show.

Rehearsals for "Hit Parade" are weekly, held Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon for dancers and 12:30-2:30 p.m. for all other performers. There is a second rehearsal on Friday as well, with times to be determined.

She said last year's variety show, titled "That's Entertainment," based on television shows and recognizable commercials, welcomed more than 40 seniors to the stage, and she hopes for an even bigger turnout for "Hit Parade."

"The people that perform in the senior shows are amazing," Lannen said. "Some of the seniors are in their 90s. I give these guys credit."

McPherson said she would be back for this year's performance.

McPherson said she'd like to see more seniors come out and take part in the show.

She said the group, thus far, has become a performing company and she's made many friends.

"The people in the senior group are very supportive of one another," she said. "We have some people in their 90s and over people below 50, who we call senior want-to-bes. We all energize one another. It's a fun healthy atmosphere."

Giese said joining the senior theater is something to look forward to every week.

"It's good for you," he said. "If you don't keep busy, you'll start hurting all over." "Caroline and I keep moving."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Seniors listen in on Monday morning during an informational meeting about their upcoming theatre season. The seniors will be working on production of a variety shows for this fall under the direction of Debbie Lannen.

Senior variety series seeks participants

Production: Hit Parade
Rehearsals: Mondays and Fridays, 10-noon for dancers and 12:30-2:30 p.m. for other performers.
Fee: \$50 for Novi residents and non-residents
Showtimes: Sept. 6, 7, 9, 13, 14 and 15. There will be four luncheon performances and two Sunday matinees.
Place: Rehearsals and performances are held at the Novi Civic Center.

For more information about joining the Novi Theater, contact the Novi Theater at (248) 347-0400 or Debbie Lannen at dlannen@novi.org.

If you keep moving and are interested in something, you forget about all your aches and pains." Lannen said if anyone wants to get involved with the senior show, it's important they call the theater.

"This is a great opportunity for people," she said. "What a service. Instead of sitting on your porch this summer, come on and dance and sing with us."

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Victoria Mitchell, editor
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MY NOVI COMMUNITY

Tuesday, June 7, 2007
www.novinews.com
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Providing hope, food to those in need

By Tracy Mishler
SPECIAL NEWS WRITER

During economic hard times, more people are looking toward food banks and kitchens for extra support.

The Oakland Farmington Human Service Agency will be distributing a variety of foods through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP) in Oakland County at 18 locations during the first half of June.

The program will be available to Novi residents in need of food assistance at the Novi Senior Center from 12:30-3 p.m. June 12.

"There's a lot of people that are in need, but don't know where to go or what to do," said Tim McAlpine, senior center coordinator. "Many people know there are programs existing, but don't know how to apply or ask for help."

The Emergency Food Assistance Program is available for people of all ages, depending on their household income based on 180 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines, to be eligible to receive food, a person younger than 60, living alone, can make no more than \$1,027 or \$1,106 per month for each addi-

tional family member, an extra \$377, can be added per month.

Based on 160 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines, to be eligible to receive food, a person older than 60, living alone, can make no more than \$1,636 or \$1,361 per month. For each additional family member, an extra \$304 can be added per month.

EFAP is a federally funded program overseen by the Michigan Department of Education.

Food for the program is ordered by the state department, sometimes frozen foods, meats and canned goods, and are made available to about 3,500 households in Oakland County.

"It's an extra amount of food that can assist people if they need it," McAlpine said. "The program is available every three months and we see someone around 50 families or more during each distribution."

M. Almine said the number of families varies each month.

Tracy Long, program manager and coordinator for the Oakland Farmington Human Service Agency, said the program is very helpful to those in need.

"The state tries to concentrate on supplying protein items

because those are the most expensive food items," Long said. "This is a commodity food program and everyone pretty much receives the same thing, good wholesome food."

"We're not giving people food that other people are getting rid of. This food is very thoughtfully ordered that people could use and need."

Long said there are currently 48 food distribution sites in Oakland County, and the program could be bigger in the future.

"We're in the process of attempting to make this food program better," she said. "I'm in contact with the state to make the program better, and we're always looking at more sites and improving the system to make it faster and easier."

As of the census of 2000, about 1.6 percent of families and 2.2 percent of the population of Novi were living below the poverty line, including 2.7 percent of those age 65 and older and 2.4 percent of those under age 18.

According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the median household income in 2000 was \$22,355 in Novi, with about 10 percent of the population making less than \$25,000.

She said for those interested in

who have been victims of being poor their entire lives, but it's harder for those who have been the givers and have fallen on hard times. It's harder to not be in the giving role."

Kuntz said seeking assistance is not something to be embarrassed about.

"We try to make a comfortable zone and make them more comfortable knowing they are not alone," she said. "Don't let your feelings stand in the way of doing something positive to turn things around. We can't help people if they don't come to us."

The Emergency Food Assistance Program
Place: Novi Senior Center at Meadowbrook Commons, 25075 Meadowbrook Road
Date: Tuesday, June 12
Time: 12:30-3 p.m.
Price: Free to those eligible
For income eligibility or additional information, the Oakland County Human Service Agency in Pontiac, at (248) 209-2686 or (800) 482-9250.

Congrats!
Novi resident and president of Affordable HomeCare Greg Adair (right) accepts an award from Joel Gottsacker, director of contract and purchased services for the Area Agency on Aging 1-B. Adair was honored with the Service Provider Leadership award for his commitment to improving the quality of life of older adults.

Father's Day Hoedown
Sunday, June 17, 2007 • 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
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There's no better time to visit a Sunrise Senior Living community. Join us at Brighton Gardens of Northville for a festive open house as we celebrate Father's Day. Enjoy live music performed by the sensational-country music singer C.J. Baker. Mingle with residents and meet our team members. Light refreshments will be served.

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NOVI NEIGHBORHOODS: Send your happenings to the Novi News

Victoria Mitchell, editor
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MY NEIGHBORHOOD

Thursday, June 7, 2007
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City program helps neighborhoods clean up

By Chris Jackett
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Tired of unsightly tree branches lying at the roadside? Novi's "Rent A Truck" program may be the answer.

Neighborhood Services Coordinator Cindy Uglov has teamed with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to offer Novi residents aid in clearing loose brush from their neighborhoods.

"The Department of Public Works delivers and parks a truck near the neighborhood clean-up site," Uglov said. From there, residents can use their chosen clean-up date to fill the truck and department workers will return the following day or early Monday to dispose of the fillings.

"They're allowed to put in landscaping material and common trash, but nothing personal like refrigerators," Uglov said. "It keeps the property values up. Residents are very passionate about their property."

Since the program began six years ago, 20-25 neighborhoods have taken advantage of it, usually during mid-summer, spring or fall, Uglov said.

"I heard about it about six years ago from a code enforcement officer in Holly," Uglov said. "They had been doing it for a few years and a friend of mine's association in Holly took advantage."

Since it was established in Novi, the program has had nothing but good reviews from city officials and residents alike. Johnson said the program as a



Scott and Terri Kasik, Patti Johnson, Walt Sobczak, Ronnie Johnson and Kevin Grobe, all members of the Meadowbrook Glen Homeowner's Association, take a break from loading a city-provided work truck with foliage throughout the neighborhood as part of their neighborhood clean-up effort.

win-win situation that helps the city clean and beautiful.

"It's the city helping the people and the people helping the city by cleaning the subdivisions for them," Johnson said.

Chris Jackett is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjackett@gannett.com.

LET'S TALK
WITH GARY S. WEINSTEIN
GEMOLOGIST

WISDOM OF PEARLS

Unlike diamonds, pearls do not have a universal grading system. This means that serious buyers must rely on their own eyes and their jeweler's recommendations. The seven factors that consumers should consider when assessing their value are size, color, shape, luster, surface, and nacre, and how well they match. South Sea pearls tend to be larger (typically 12-20 mm), while Akoya pearls range from 7-9 mm. Colors vary from whites and creams to golds and silvers, pinks, and Tahitian pearls' blacks, grays, and greens. Pearls with high luster are currently the most desirable. To judge a pearl's luster, hold it under a light. If you see a bright, sharp reflection, the pearl has high luster.

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SPOTLIGHT: ALLERGY & ASTHMA
Presented by Michael S. Rowe, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.C.P.

SAFE EATING AWAY FROM HOME

With the social days and evenings of warmer weather here, chances are good that you'll be eating away from home more often. Summer picnics and cookouts are fun and relaxing, but they can be dangerous for the person with food allergies unless precautions are taken. Of course, it's vitally important to know which foods give you an allergic reaction. Also, make sure whoever is preparing the food knows which foods you are allergic to. It's not so afraid to ask about food ingredients. Keep your eating partner with you at all times, and make sure that someone with you knows how to use it. Be aware of your surroundings as even just a little contamination can trigger an attack.

Food allergies are a serious matter and today's column offers excellent advice. A consultation with a Board Certified allergist, a specialist in the field, is recommended. Call the

ALLERGY & ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN in Novi, MI. Call (248) 473-9000. Our office is located at 24220 Meadowbrook Road, S.E. 201, Novi. New patients are welcome. *The Caring Allergist Who Gets Results!

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NHS: Congratulations to Novi seniors graduating Saturday at Computware Arena

Victoria Mitchell, editor
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MY EDUCATION



Thursday, June 7, 2007
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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Field Day Fun!

While bouncing off each other and wearing inflatable bumpers, Novi Woods students Loredana Grotendiek, left, and Yui Sudimoto enjoy a competitive game during last week's annual field day.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Tow That Line

Novi Woods students get into a spirited game of tug-of-war during last week's annual field day activities. Parents helped out by manning the various stations so that the kids could have a fun, end-of-year competition.

Class NOTES

Party preview

The Novi High School Class of 2007 Senior All Night Party Committee invites the community to its Class of 2007 Senior All Night Party Walk Through anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Saturday at Novi High School. Please enter through the Auditorium doors off of 10 Mile Road. Committee members and parent volunteers have been working since August to put this memorable evening on for the students and would like residents to join them for a sneak preview. No children under the age of 19 please.

Summer CARE program

Looking for an enriching edu-

cational 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 or call (248) 449-1713 for more information. This year the program will be located at Parkview Elementary School.

Commencements

The Novi High School graduation ceremony takes place 7 p.m. Saturday at Computware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Submit your information in the Class Notes of the Novi News. Send information to vmitchell@gannett.com. Photos are also welcome.

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BE SCENE IN NOVI

Thursday, June 7, 2007
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Relaying for life

Photos by JOHN HEIDER

Check novnews.com for video of the event



Participants of last weekend's Relay for Life event walk the track at Novi Middle School.



Tents and tables were set up along the infield of Novi Middle School's track as Novi Relay for Lifers got set up for a 24 hour fundraiser event for the American Cancer Society.



Novi High School sophomore Sarah Wizinsky participates in an "all-gator wrestling" competition during last weekend's Novi Relay for Life. Hundreds of participants gathered at the Novi Middle School stadium beginning Saturday to raise funds for and knowledge of cancer. This was the first year that Novi had its own Relay event.

TALK ABOUT IT: Join in discussing our stories online via **Story Chat** at novnews.com

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MY NEIGHBOR

Thursday, June 7, 2007
www.novnews.com
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Longtime employee knew tax system inside and out

Now this Novi resident is looking forward to her new career as a retiree

By Pam Fleming
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Novi resident Nancy Molloy says Northville Township has changed a lot over the last two decades.

And if anybody should know, she should.

That's because the recent retiree worked for the township for 21.5 years and knew the municipality's taxing system inside and out, according to co-worker Thelma Kubitsky.

"Nancy was one of our employees who was dedicated, loyal and hard-working," said Kubitsky, finance director and assistant township supervisor. "She is a friend, a confidante and was just everything to everybody," Kubitsky said. "She's been my go-to person for over 20 years. She will be sorely missed."

Members of the township board of trustees presented her with a resolution at their May 17 meeting. Co-workers had a going-away party for Molloy at Genetti's Hole in the Wall in downtown Northville on May 31; June 1 was her last day.

Molloy, who lives in Novi with her husband, Larry, started as an administrative assistant in the treasurer's office and was hired by current treasurer Dick Henningsen.

A graduate of Romeo High School, Molloy attended Central Michigan University for two years, then transferred to

Oakland Community College, where she earned an associate's degree in business.

She started working for the township on Nov. 5, 1985.

"I was very excited when I got the job," she said. "It was time for me to go back to work full time because my three children were all in school, and my oldest was getting ready to go to college."

Township growth tremendous

Her last position was as the treasurer's office accounts receivable clerk. She sent tax bills to all residents and businesses in the township, which she said grew from 4,500-8,000 in 1985 to more than 10,000 today.

"It's been enjoyable and fulfilling to work with the public, and it's definitely changed," Molloy said. "There used to be so much farmland that I would see deer on Haggerty and Six Mile (roads) but not so much today. The growth has been tremendous."

Molloy started working first at the location of the current police department and later moved into a separate building at Six Mile and Winchester roads. She said

the biggest change of her career was moving into the beautiful new township hall.

"We've come a long way," she said. "All of us being in one building has made a world of difference."

Molloy made the bank deposits for the township. For security reasons, a township police officer escorted her on her bank runs. So, over the years, she became friends with many of the officers.

A certified Level 2 assessor, she helped design and maintain the township's first Web site and helped manage the computer network before a full-time person was hired.

Molloy decided to retire for a couple of reasons. Her husband spends several weeks in the Upper Peninsula each summer, where he gives history tours about the copper country.

"I usually can only take two weeks vacation to spend with him," Molloy said. "Now I can be with him the whole time."

She also wants to spend more time with her seven grandchildren — five of which live in the area.

Molloy will also enjoy doing more volunteer work at Farmington Methodist Church, singing with her husband in the

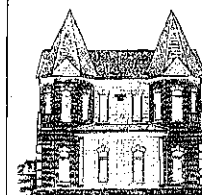


Novi resident Nancy Molloy spends her last few days at work before retirement.

Novi Chorales, sewing, crocheting, reading, walking and biking.

Pam Fleming can be reached at (248) 349-1700.

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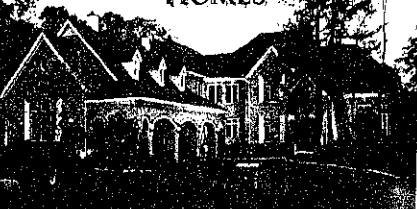
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MY NEIGHBOR

Thursday, June 7, 2007
www.novinews.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Connections through family, friends united avid golfers

By Maureen Johnston
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

They've dubbed it their "Sterling Season." Marking a 25th anniversary this summer, eight area golfers have been teeing off together longer than some marriages last. They call themselves "The Sunday Bunch" and they resumed play at regional courses May 6.

Northville Township resident Gary "Keeper of the Stats" Morrow said they all have nicknames and miss their bi-monthly outings only under extreme circumstances.

It's how their clique has lasted — and thrived.

"It's just a given we'll continue to play," said Morrow, 56. "I don't want to say until somebody dies... It's a great bunch of guys — the brothers I never had."

"It just has continued to build."

Varied talents

Off the links, the golfers' professions range from lawyer to factory worker, special education teacher to software salesman.

"We just kind of have a good time with each other," said Ferrara, an attorney and also a Northville resident.

An auditor by profession, Morrow talks scores, exemplifying moments and milestones, which he shares at each season's end. Since 1983, the group's statistician has not missed a league round, which once again this year commenced on the birthday of his wife, Elaine.

Morrow said the talent varies widely — with handicaps from under 10 to plus 30 — but the competition is fierce to get their name engraved on the championship trophy.

"Everyone plays everyone else once," he explained. From there, his schedule details a system of playoffs, non-league matches and tournament pairings.

"It's happened before, you could end up playing the same person again and again and again."



Members of the Sunday brunch in the back row include (left) Carlo Fugolo, Ron Hoekstra, Alan Ferrara, Charles Witsie and William Johnson. Seated in the front are (left) Mark Fugolo, Gary Morrow and Dennis Zurlo.

Nicknamed fellas

From May through September, two busloads meet from their homes in Northville, Novi and other cities to courses throughout southeastern Michigan according to a schedule Morrow prepares.

"There are a number of places that recognize us," said Alan Ferrara, also of Northville. "At one course outside Ann Arbor — the woman sees us once a year — the minute we walk in, she starts giving us the business, picking up from the previous year."

In addition to Morrow and Ferrara, players are "Banker Bill" Johnson and his cousin, Dennis "The Z Factor" Zurlo, brothers Mark "Mr. 4000" and "Carlo" "Big Kahuna" Fugolo, "Ron 'The Shotgunner' Hoekstra, and Chuck 'Six Chicks' Witsie. Morrow, a 24-year-old son, Dan, occasionally filling in as an alternate, has extended the golf play and horse play into a second generation.

"He has no hesitation," Ferrara said of his son's fitzy into the familiar teasing. "He knows what he can take and what he can give back."

NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2007/2008 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 12, 2007 at 7:30 o'clock p.m. at Old Village School, Northville, Michigan, the Board of Education of Northville Public Schools will hold public hearings to consider the district's proposed 2007/2008 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2007/2008 budget until after the public hearings. A copy of the proposed budget including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours after June 5, 2007, at the Business Office, 501 W. Main St., Northville, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This order is given by order of the Board of Education.

JOAN WADSWORTH
SECRETARY
(6-7-07 NN/NR 358687)

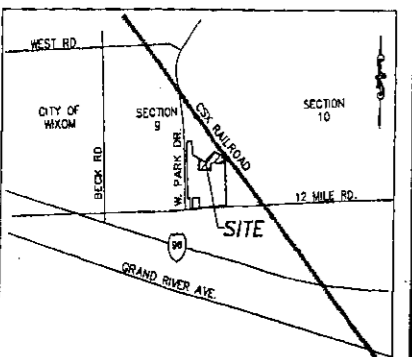
CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 13 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider NOV I CORP. CAMPUS PARCEL 8, SITE PLAN NUMBER 07-24 FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, WOODLAND PERMIT, AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 9, NORTH OF TWELVE MILE, EAST OF WEST PARK DRIVE, LOCATED IN THE NOV I CORPORATE CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT IN THE OST OFFICE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY DISTRICT. The subject property is 8.34 acres and the applicant is proposing to build a 28,630 sq. ft. speculative office/warehouse building.

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 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 13, 2007.

Published June 7, 2007

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
MARK PEHRSON, SECRETARY
(6-7-07 NN 358990)



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 27, 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. 37-18, AS AMENDED, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, FOR MODIFICATIONS TO ARTICLE 30, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT, SECTION 3003, TEMPORARY SPECIAL LAND USE PERMITS.

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 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 27, 2007.

Published June 7, 2007

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
MARK PEHRSON, SECRETARY
(6-7-07 NN 358989)

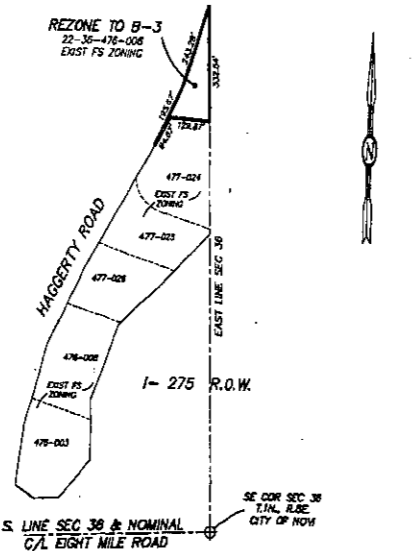
CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 27, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider HAGGERTY ROAD DEVELOPMENT, SITE PLAN NUMBER 07-24, FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR A CONSIDERATION OF A PLANNED REZONING OVERLAY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH REZONING REQUEST 18.670, THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN SECTION 36, EAST OF HAGGERTY ROAD, NORTH OF EIGHT MILE ROAD, IN THE F.S. FREEWAY SERVICE DISTRICT. The subject property is 0.41 acres and the applicant is proposing a 2,500 sq. ft. office building.

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 until 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 27, 2007.

Published June 7, 2007

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
MARK PEHRSON, SECRETARY
(6-7-07 NN 358992)



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Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.

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Ad



Helping Hands

More than 100 volunteers participated in Novi's Rebuilding Together one-day rehabilitation project last month to help upgrade two local homes. Rebuilding Together is a nationally based program to help low-income, elderly or disabled homeowners improve the safety and comfort of their homes. The Novi projects were sponsored locally by Church of the Holy Family, St. James Catholic Church and North American Lighting.

On Campus

Northwood University
Timothy Richard Wheeler, of Novi, earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the Richard DeVos Graduate School of Management at Northwood University during the spring commencement ceremony.

The Cleveland Institute of Music
Ross Kenneth Casworth of Novi and a violoncello student of Stephen Geber, received a Master of Music degree from The Cleveland Institute of Music at its 82nd Annual Commencement on May 21.

Notre Dame
Kiley Elfring of Novi was named to the Dean's List in the University of Notre Dame's School of Architecture for outstanding scholarship during the spring 2007 semester. She is the daughter of Hub and Carol Elfring.

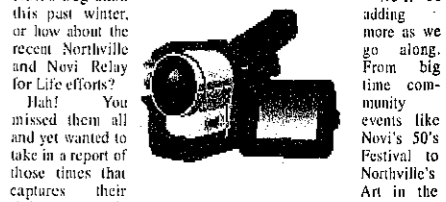
Caught on film

Did you miss Northville's Fire and Ice Festival in February because you were in Florida and wanted to avoid its "ice" aspect?

Were you out of town for Nov's Dog Show this past winter, or how about the recent Northville and Novi Relay For Life efforts?

Had! You missed them all and yet wanted to take in a report of those times that captures their sights and sounds in one neat little package that rarely goes over a minute and twenty seconds.

Well, if you're interested in seeing a video recap of those and other events from Northville and Novi, check out the papers' Web sites (noviwillreel.com & novinews.com) and look into our "Online Special" — the Record and News' video reports from local events. (On the paper's main page, about halfway down, just look for the



We'll be adding more as we go along. From big time community events like Nov's 50's Festival to Northville's Art in the Sun to smaller, more intimate portraits of individuals we're also covering for the Record and News print editions.

We hope you enjoy them. Online videos are just another medium we're utilizing to bring you more information and insight into your community.

John Heider, Northville Record and Novi News photographer.

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MY FORTUNE

Thursday, June 7, 2007 www.novinews.com

Financial tips for newlyweds

It's June - a popular month for weddings. If you're getting married this month, you have a lot to think about...

Fed chief: Outlook brighter

By Barbara Hagenbaugh and Sue Kirchoff GANNETT NEWS SERVICE The U.S. economy will strengthen from the sluggish pace at the start of the year...

2007 Ann Arbor Antiques Market 39th Season Sunday, June 17 • 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$6.00 Admission - Free Parking

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MY HEALTHY LIVING

Thursday, June 7, 2007 www.novinews.com

Residents participate in national health center study

900 people receive free tests. Information is used by public health officials, legislators and doctors to develop health policies, direct and design health programs and services and expand knowledge.

NATIONAL Health and Nutrition EXAMINATION SURVEY FINDINGS

- Past findings uncovered through the Centers for Disease Control's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey include: • Between survey periods 1988-1994 and 2001-2004, the percent of adults with high serum cholesterol fell from 20 percent to 17 percent.

Study around almost 50 years. The study has been conducted for almost half a century and provides annual estimates on a range of diseases...

Participants selected to undergo the physical exam are provided or reimbursed for travel expenses and are paid up to \$100.

CITY OF NOV 2006 CONSUMERS ANNUAL REPORT ON WATER QUALITY

The City of Novi is pleased to present the 2006 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report contains mandatory information about water quality issues and potential health effects...

Table with 10 columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Level Detected, Source of Contamination. Rows include Total Coliform Bacteria, Total Organic Carbon, etc.

Table with 5 columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Level Detected, Source of Contamination. Rows include Lead, Copper, etc.

2006 Turbidity - Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap. Highest Single Measurement: 0.11 NTU. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of water.

Table with 5 columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Level Detected, Source of Contamination. Rows include Lead, Copper, etc.

2006 Special Monitoring. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur...

Table with 5 columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Level Detected, Source of Contamination. Rows include Lead, Copper, etc.

2006 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers' Taps. The City of Novi currently has more than 12,400 customers on our Water Distribution System.

Table with 5 columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Level Detected, Source of Contamination. Rows include Lead, Copper, etc.

DETECTED CONTAMINANTS. The tables and information contained on the next pages are based on tests conducted by DWS and the City of Novi in the year 2006/2006. DWS's monitoring tests throughout the year only tests that show the presence of a contaminant are shown.

Table with 5 columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Level Detected, Source of Contamination. Rows include Lead, Copper, etc.

Table with 5 columns: Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Level Detected, Source of Contamination. Rows include Lead, Copper, etc.

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

MY OPINION

Thursday, June 7, 2007 www.novinews.com fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell, Editor Richard Perberg, Executive Editor Grace 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: Celebrate Responsibly

According to statistics issued by the organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving, more than 200 teens were involved in traffic fatalities, with more than half alcohol related, during the 2006 national prom and graduation season. The statistics taken from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration state one important message - the end of the school year for seniors is not a time to act irresponsibly. Or downright illegally. We encourage all young adults celebrating Novi High School commencement this weekend, to act responsibly and celebrate appropriately. Although it may seem like the time to let loose and lose sensibilities, remember it is those sensibilities that brought you to this momentous occasion - commencement. Mothers Against Drunk Driving offers this information for your celebration week-

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Artistic Impression Visitors check out works at the Novi High School Student Art Show on its opening night May 22. Students exhibited paintings, drawings and ceramic works in the school's auditorium lobby.

LETTERS

Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants

Do you enjoy living in America with a Constitution that guarantees you freedom? We take many things for granted as Americans. Like the right to own property, the right to bear arms, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, etc. All that is in danger of being lost with the coming votes on amnesty for illegal immigrants in the U.S. Senate and soon afterward in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill which is being debated amounts to more deception by our elected officials from both parties. The bill is promoted as a "compromise" bill which would require illegal aliens to pay a \$5,000 fine, leave the country for a short time

then re-enter on a path to citizenship. They would have to pay a minimum of back taxes, learn English (which they have absolutely no interest in doing), and buy health insurance, even though they now receive free medical care in the ER. In return, they are granted amnesty, encouraged to bring their families, etc. which could swell the ranks of new "citizens" to 30 million or more. The only thing guaranteed by this bill is that many millions of illegal immigrants will be granted amnesty. All of the tough "penalties" are window dressing for your benefit and mine. Like the 700 mile fence along the border that Congress approved but will never be built. The cost of assimilating 30 million people, mostly uneducated, will be even more of a burden on U.S. taxpayers than they are now. It will have a tremendous impact on the standard of living in the USA. Many of these people are criminals and terrorists as well. Had the terrorists who attacked the U.S. on 9/11 been illegal immigrants, should these people be on a "path to citizenship"? Please call and write your U.S. Senators (Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow) and your US Representative in Congress ASAP. The time for action is now. For more information see www.hs.org or www.numrcsa.org. Also, watch Lou Dobbs on CNN television. Gerald N. Wiggins South Lyon

How dare you

Every Novi School board member should be recalled and the superintendent of Novi schools should be fired. Audrey Murphy Novi

Chinese Bullish Stocks

According to China Daily, China's official English Language newspaper, more than 70 billion Yuan (9.1 billion US dollars) was transferred from savings accounts in Shanghai to stock trading accounts in the first four months of this year. There is a China Craze going on in an attempt to get rich quick in the stock market. Their stock market has soared more than 50 percent this year on top of a 130 percent gain in 2006, drawing in tens of thousands of investors each day. The Chinese people, shaking off the rusted chains of socialism, have embraced Deng Xiaoping's line, "To get rich is glorious!" As China's paramount leader following Mao Zedong, Deng opened China to the world in the early 1980s. When Deng Xiaoping was asked about apparent inconsistencies in the socialist/communist road the Chinese were following under the pre-eminent leader, Mao, and the capitalist road it appeared to take under Deng's direction, he said, "It does not matter if the cat is white or the cat is black -- as long as the cat can catch the mice." The Chinese have stressed economic growth together with social stability and have been catching mice and making money ever since! Chinese citizens are savers. As the communist "iron rice bowl" has gone away, they must save to educate their children and prepare for their own retirement. Typically, the Chinese save and produce; Americans spend and consume. Now, the Chinese are putting their savings in the stock market, hoping it will provide an "iron rice bowl" on

steroids for their and their children's future. The feeding frenzy of stock-buying in China appears to be based on what Alan Greenspan, the former Federal Reserve Chairman, once called "irrational exuberance." People are simply investing their savings while scooping up stocks, but also pawning their goods and homes, borrowing money from friends and relatives and spending their retirement to get a piece of the action. People are investing as if China's annual double-digit economic growth will never slow down and stocks will defy gravity forever. Inevitably, when the bubble bursts, the pain will be excruciating as the losers will be those who can least afford to take a financial beating. "So what?" you may ask. Why should you care what happens in the Chinese stock market and the potentially huge loss of savings of average Chinese workers? Because the economies of the United States and China are so inextricably entwined that, when China's bubble bursts, it is likely to send an economic wave that could become a tsunami before hitting our shores.



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 (Revolution at www.naoel.org. He can be reached at to Watkins@aol.com.

invest in the stock market. The Chinese National Anthem, the "March of the Volunteers," calls for citizens to defend the nation against enemies. But the modified version urges citizens to "rise" and "invest all of their funds in the tempting stock market." Will the people "rise in defiance" when the inevitable happens? Clearly, there are "millions of hearts with one mind" that expect to ride the Chinese stock market dragon to riches. How will the people react when the crash hits? Will they "Arise! Arise! Arise!" Chinese leaders' greatest fear is losing control. Maintaining control while opening up their country has been a delicate balance. As the 21st century unfolds, the Chinese people and leaders will discover that greater freedom brings risk. How will China's government respond when "irrational exuberance" turns to anger and fear when tens of trillions of billions of Yuan are wiped off the books of millions of ordinary Chinese investors? How will the "Millions of hearts with one mind" respond? Given the inextricable link between, and mutual dependence of, our respective economies, we better hope for a soft landing when the Chinese stock market makes its inevitable correction. Here's hoping the people of China will respond with "March on! March on! March on!" and not "Everybody must rear his defiance."

JOIN IN: Discuss our stories online via Story Chat at novinews.com

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

COMMENTARY

Thursday, June 7, 2007 www.novinews.com fax: (248) 349-9832

Elected leaders not helping state's future

MACKINAC ISLAND - This year, the atmosphere was a little different. The Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce's annual policy conference featured some interesting themes, to put it mildly. Bottom line from those in the know: Business and labor haven't exactly distinguished themselves. But our elected leaders have really led the league in failing to get the job done.

That's a rough consensus based on conversations with dozens of the 1,500 or so real and self-proclaimed movers and shakers who crowded onto the island last week. If there was anything that especially roused their ire, it was the state legislature's last-minute "balanced budget." The kindest reaction to it might be characterized as mere disdain. Others openly held it in outright contempt. One retired chief financial officer of a major Michigan corporation had one word to describe what lawmakers said they had achieved: "fraud."

The man added heatedly that if his company had resorted to the kind of accounting hocus-pocus practiced by those running our government in Lansing, the company would be in deep legal doo-doo with the federal Securities and Exchange Commission. Others, reflecting on efforts by former State Rep. James Tate, now R-Clinton Township, to recall any legislator who votes for a tax increase, also recommended recall - of the entire legislature! - Nor are the folks at Mackinac alone. A survey by Brogan & Partners, a Birmingham-based marketing firm, found responders gave business and union leaders a "C," while elected



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 1989. He is also president and founder of The Center for 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@cmcenter.com.

leaders got a "D+." When asked which "one group has been the biggest obstacle in helping turn Michigan's economy around?" a solid 56 percent majority gave our elected leaders the lion's share of the blame. One thing is beyond argument: The big losers in the budget were our seedbeds of the future, Michigan's community colleges and universities. They saw not only state support cut, but cash payments they expected this summer deferred until at least October. The college presidents I talked with could only shake their heads as they contemplated Lansing's preferences in spending priorities for the very short run as opposed to the long term. When they considered how our lawmakers have believed thus far, many on the Grand Hotel's big porch openly questioned whether the legislature will have the stomach to make the tough decisions needed when it comes to tackling the nearly \$2 billion deficit looming ahead for the fiscal year that starts this Oct. 1. Many suggested that a crisis of confidence was brewing throughout the state's entire political culture. Some argued that the time has come to fix the legislative tilt toward inexperience by linking an end to term limits to making the legislature part-time. No agreement on that seemed in sight. But there were two bright spots at the conference: For the first time in memory, big labor was invited to this particular table. Teamsters President James Hoffa and United Auto Workers chief Ron Gettelinger both received polite responses to their calls for business and labor to cooperate to help Michigan through its time of crisis. Arguing that "you don't have to be anti-employer to be pro-union," Gettelinger stressed how important it is for management and labor to collaborate to achieve a "high performance workplace." And support seemed to be solidifying for the "aerotropolis," the proposal for a massive development zone framed between Detroit Metropolitan Airport on the east and Willow Run on the west.

Detroit Renaissance head Doug Rothwell called the project "possibly the single most important economic development project in Michigan." Business heavyweight and Walbridge Aldinger CEO John Rakolta's leading high-profile, private public support panel charged with making it happen. Experts praised the combination of air, road, rail and water logistical resources the development could command as among the world's best. "The aeropolis will form," said John Kasarda, head of the Kenan Institute of Private

Enterprise at the University of North Carolina, an expert in airport-driven economic development. "The only question is whether it will happen haphazardly or in a coordinated, planned way." As for Michigan's elected leaders - the top brass, from Gov. Jennifer Granholm to Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, and House Speaker Andy Dillion, D-Redford Township, argued (some what defensively) that the 2007 budget deal is only the first step in getting Michigan's financial house in order. The governor pointed out that "a crisis is a terrible thing to waste" in urging all sides to come together to move Michigan forward. Well, she's right about that. And maybe our top leaders will find ways to focus on our long term economic health by putting together three main initiatives: spending cuts, structural reforms in the organization and cost of government at all levels, and a tax increase. "Virtually everybody" I talked with on Mackinac Island agreed some combination of those factors is the obvious policy solution to the state's ills. But virtually nobody was optimistic that would really happen. And that huge disconnect is, in a nutshell, what's wrong with politics and government in Michigan today.

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What do you think? We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Mail: Novi News, Letters to the Editor, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167. Fax: (248) 349-9832. E-mail: vemitche@gannett.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by noon on Tuesday to be published in the Thursday edition.

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Catholic Central lacrosse wins regional, advances to Novi semifinals, P. 2B



SPORTS GALLERY: NOVI SOCCER

PAGE 4B

MY NOVI SPORTS

CC's Martin wins state title in shot put

SPORTS, 2B

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2007 • WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM • SPORTS SUBMISSIONS: JTHEISEN@GANNETT.COM • PAGE 1B

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: SOCCER

STORY CHAT: WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL US AT WWW.NOVINNEWS.COM

'Cats tame 'Dogs to claim district



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Stephanie Crawford, center, gets a bear-hug from a teammate after scoring Novi and the game's only goal during last Saturday's playoff.

Crawford scores lone goal against Brighton

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Novi senior Stephanie Crawford wanted nothing to do with overtime in Saturday's district finals at Novi Meadows Field.

With the scorching heat and uncertainty that follows sudden death or penalty kicks, she and the rest of the Wildcats wanted to win

it in regulation. With 3:20 left to play, Crawford made sure of it, heading the ball past Brighton's Stephanie Suter for the game's only tally.

"We basically put everything we had at them," Crawford said. "I can jump high. I love heading corners and crosses.

"We just kept going and fighting until we scored."

Off a Novi free kick, the ball bounced around inside the Brighton penalty area before Jamie Fratto headed the ball back to the middle of the box. Crawford jumped up and headed the ball into the upper corner of the net to send the Novi crowd into a wild

See SOCCER, 4B



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Patrick Schlenke bends out of the way of an inside pitch during the Wildcats' playoff game against South Lyon at CC on May 29.

Novi baseball, softball fall to Farmington

Wildcats place sixth at state tennis tournament

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

STORY CHAT

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

Novi baseball started district with a win against KVC foe South Lyon before falling to Farmington in the second round Saturday.

Novi (19-16-1) started the playoff run with an 11-7 win against South Lyon on May 29.

Mike Slack helped lead the offense with a home run and a run-scoring double. Brett Glover hit a two-run homer in a two-hit day. The Wildcats pounded out 14 hits in the win.

The Wildcats made a run at knocking off Farmington, but thing fell apart late in an 11-2 loss.

Novi led 2-1 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning before Farmington took the lead with three runs. A big Farmington rally in the sixth ended hopes of a comeback.

The Wildcats started the game with bases loaded and none out in the first but were unable to push across any runs.

Novi Softball

The Novi softball season ended with a 2-0 loss to Farmington on Saturday at the Mercy district.

The Wildcats (9-24) were locked in a scoreless tie in the fifth inning. A couple of botched plays by the Wildcats led to a bases-loaded, two-run single by Farmington for the game's only runs.

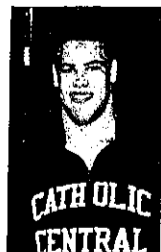
"The kids played very, very well," Novi head coach Robert

See ROUNDUP, 3B

What is SPORTS SPOTLIGHT? Each week, the Novi News takes a closer look at Novi athletes. Have a suggestion? E-mail jtheisen@gannett.com.

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NOVI NEWS Athlete of the Week

CC junior Mike Martin, Track

Mike Martin won his second individual state title Saturday at Midland, setting a school record in the shot put with a toss of 60-11.5. Martin also won the heavyweight title in wrestling during the winter season.



ON THE MOVE

Consider biking as alternative exercise

On the move means more than just running or walking. It encompasses a variety of "in motion" physical activities for a healthy lifestyle. One of my favorites is biking.

In addition to the cross-training benefits biking provides, it is also an ideal alternative to running on those hot and humid summer days when you are tempted to forego any exercise. What other activity provides its own breeze and lets you take a break and coast while still moving forward?



Jerry Mittman

• Wear a helmet
• Let others know when you are passing

League of Michigan Bicyclists
An excellent source of information about biking in Michigan is the League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB). The League's Web site (www.lmb.org) includes the 2007 Michigan Ride Calendar (a comprehensive list of one day and multi-day biking events), information on the Shoreline Bicycle Tours and a free Michigan Biking Packet.

Upcoming Events
• Saturday, June 30: The Tour De'Ville is a family-friendly bike event through the City of Northville and Northville Township. The 13- and 22-mile routes provide an excellent tour of the community. It is put on by Northville Parks and Recreation. (www.northvilleparksandrec.org)
• Saturday, July 14: The 31st Annual One Helluva Ride includes scenic bicycle touring routes, from 15 to 100 miles, along with rest stops and lunch. All road events start at the Chelsea Fairgrounds. (www.aabts.org)

Biking Safety
While biking can be very enjoyable, it is important to do it safely. The first thing to consider is to make sure your bicycle is in good repair. Northville is fortunate to have two excellent bike shops downtown (Town & County; and D & D). Check them out. Some other guidelines are:
• Always ride with traffic
• Be visible and observant
• Obey traffic rules

Best Places to Bike

Southeast Michigan offers many biking opportunities close to home. If you have a mountain bike, check out the mountain bike trails at Maybury State Park or Island Lake State Recreation Area. For those with road bikes, here are some of my favorite biking locations:
• The streets of Northville and Novi (especially the well-shaded Historic District of Northville).
• Hines Drive — which runs 17 miles from Northville to Ford Road in Dearborn, with a bike trail extension to Michigan

Northville resident Jerry Mittman is an avid runner and bicyclist. He can be contacted at jmitt997@humint.com.



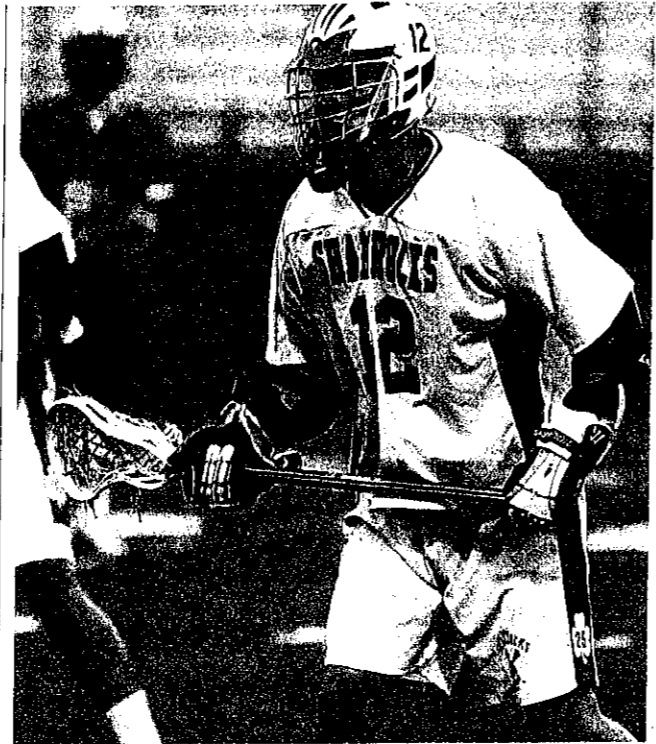
Submitted photo

Top Cats!
Led by coach Piotr Westwalowicz, the Novi Jags played a stellar defensive effort during the Memorial Day Tournament. The young ladies of Novi won all four games, only allowing one goal in the finals against their local rivals Waza and pulled out a 2-1 victory. With less than two minutes to go before the end of the game, forward Lindsey Pehrson scored on a header to secure the win for the Jaguars. Three members of the JV High School team who finished their season out with the High School on Thursday night headed directly up north to join their teammates at the tournament. Those freshmen included Becky Holt, Brianne Pieprzak and Lindsey Pehrson.

Sport Shorts

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 Keip.

The fee is \$140, and registration begins April 16 by calling Novi Community Education at (248) 449-1206.
Go to novinews.com for more Sports Shorts online.
Please send submissions for sports shorts to sports writer Jeff Theisen at jtheisen@gannett.com or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Catholic Central's Brad Janer, shown here against Warren DeLaSalle, helped the Shamrocks win its home regional.

CC lacrosse wins regional; Martin wins another state title

By Jeff Theisen
NEWS SPORTS WRITER

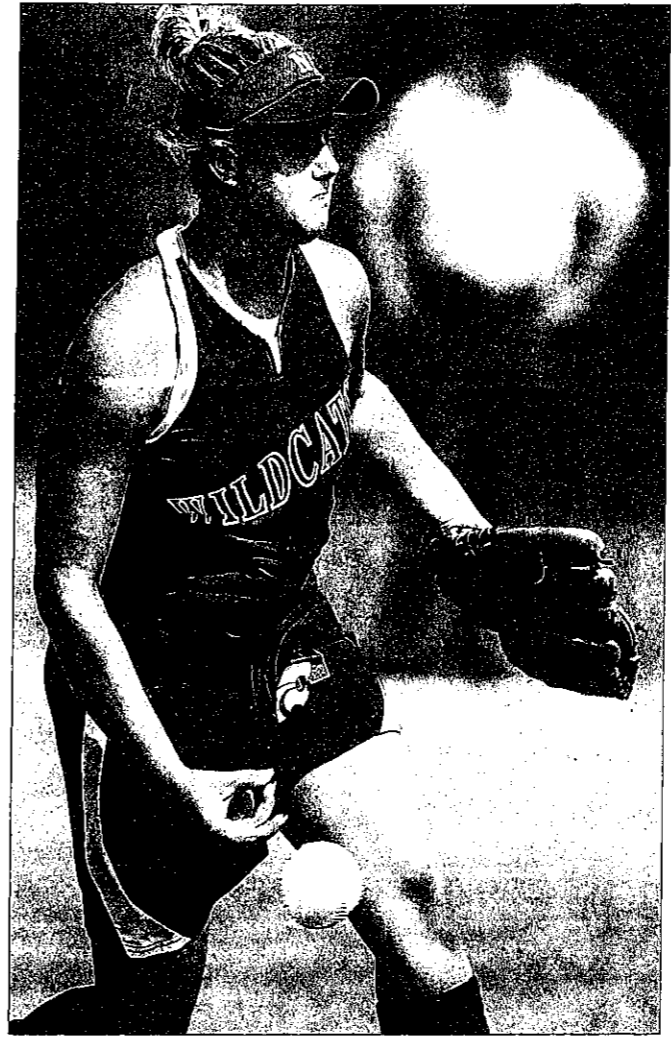
The Catholic Central lacrosse team put a thumping, 18-5, on Northville in the regional semifinals at home and advanced to the semifinals by knocking off Saline. Pat Noms, Brad Janer and Ryan Cebula each added three goals to lead the Shamrock offense. Kyle Zemek scored a pair of goals for Northville.

The Shamrocks kept the momentum and knocked off previously undefeated Saline in the regional final 12-3 Friday to advance to the semifinals. Scoring multiple goals for the Shamrocks were Brad Janer 3, Ryan Cebula 3, Connor Bush 2 (ast) and Brad Higgins 2 (ast). Catholic Central played Troy Athens yesterday in the semifinals. If the Shamrocks win they will play in the state finals 2 p.m. Saturday at Troy Athens.

CC Track
If winning one state championship in a school year is outstanding, then a new word is needed for Catholic Central junior Mike Martin. His shot put launch of 60-11.5 set a new school record and was two feet further than the second-place throw of Matthew Armstrong of Lansing State (58-9).
Teammate Jake Maloney finished sixth in the same event with a toss 52-11.
"Mike hates losing and that fuels his determination to win," said Eugene Grewe Jr., Catholic Central shot put coach. "He is extremely strong, but in throwing, strength is only one factor, albeit a big one."
"Timing, coordination and control are also significant elements. He exhibited all of those on Saturday."

CC Tennis
The Catholic Central tennis team placed eighth at the State meet Saturday in Midland. Leading the Shamrock charge were the No. 3 doubles tandem of Ryan Bourjaily and Steve Strycharz with a semifinal finish. They had a bye in the first round, won 6-2, 6-0 in the second round and 6-0, 6-3 in the quarterfinals. Sanjiv Rao, and David Yang of Ann Arbor Huron stopped the run with a 6-1, 6-0 win.
The Shamrocks also received quarterfinal finishes from Jack Snyder at No. 2 singles, Samir Dacosta at No. 3 singles, Patrick Bowers at No. 4 singles and the No. 1 doubles team of Chris Atallah and Kevin Hager.

NOVI ROUNDUP: Wildcat lacrosse loses 6-5 in regional play



Wildcat pitcher Brittany Luka delivers a pitch to home plate during Novi's May 23 game against Hartland.

Novi Lacrosse
The Novi lacrosse season came to an end against undefeated Saline in the second round of the Catholic Central regional.
Novi fell behind 6-3 before scoring the final two goals of the game. But time ran out on the Wildcat comeback attempt.
George Riegel scored a pair of goals for No. 2-ranked Novi (18-5).

Novi Tennis
The Novi tennis team placed sixth at the state meet Saturday in Midland. Ann Arbor Pioneer won with 36 points, with Ann Arbor Huron next with 28. Novi finished with 14 points, and Catholic Central was eighth with 11. Northville finished 13th with four points.
Goutham Kondapi led the team with a runner-up finish at No. 4 singles. He received a bye, won 6-1, 6-3 in round two, 6-1, 6-3 in the quarterfinals and 6-2, 6-0 in the semifinals. Eric Hubbard of Ann Arbor Pioneer won the final match 6-2, 6-0.
The Wildcats also got semifinal finishes from the No. 2 and No. 4 doubles.
At No. 2 doubles, Ryan Goodman and Kevin Lai received a bye, won 6-0, 6-1 in the second round and 6-3, 7-6 (4) in the quarterfinals. Ann Arbor Pioneer's Danny Frank and Nick Schwartz ended the run with a 6-0, 6-1 victory and went on to win the flight.
At No. 4 doubles, Ananya Sahani and Vishnu Venngopal got a bye, won 7-6 (3), 6-1 and 6-0, 2, 6-4. Ann Arbor Pioneer's Gabe Casher and Grant Smith knocked off the Wildcat duo in the semifinals 6-1, 6-2.
Kashin Ramachandran made it to the quarterfinals at No. 3 singles. No. 3 doubles Jason Isha and Justin Furoo lost in the second round, and No. 2 singles Mani Mahadevan won his first round match before falling in the second round.
— Losing in the first round were Vivek Athalye at No. 1 singles, and Adam Doster and Ryan Bell at No. 1 doubles.

Novi Girls Track
The Novi girls track team ran into a string of bad luck at the state meet.
The 4x800 team (Heather Armiak, Caroline Johnson, Emily Hall and Alie Sisson) was interfered with, causing a disqualification to the other team, but also a major dink for the Wildcats that took them out of the race.
The 4x100 relay team of Brittany Davis, Jenn Felcher, Martina Pihlman and Monica Starbuck staged a little with handoffs and did not place, despite running a 50.9, just 0.1 off the school record.
Sisson got off to a good start in the 300 hurdles but clipped a hurdle and wiped out.
Sisson finishes her career with school records in the 100 and 300 hurdles, the 400 meters and with the 4x200, 4x400 and 4x800

Novi Boys Track
The Novi track team took six athletes to the state meet.
The 4x800 team of Alex Prasad, Scott Wagner, Mike Wheat and Aaron Croad finished in 13th place (8:10.43) for the top Wildcat finish.
Mike Wheat finished the 3,200 meters in 10:14.16, and Eric Priesen cleared 127 in the pole vault.
"I knew going into the season that we were going to struggle a little bit. We didn't have the superstars that we've had in the past," Novi head coach Robert Smith said. "With that being said, it was a very successful season, not just in wins and losses, but in



Wildcat Sean Murphy brings the ball upfield against the Brighton Bulldogs.



Wildcat third baseman Mark Heard puts the tag on a South Lyon player. Novi beat South Lyon in the first round of district play.



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DISTRICT CHAMPS



A trio of players, including Novi's Courtney Milon, right, collide as they go to head a ball during Saturday's game at Novi Meadows' stadium.

SOCCER: District champions

continued from front

Novi (18-1-2) advanced to the Holt Regional and played Portage Central on Tuesday at Holt. If the Wildcats win, they will play the winner of Grand Haven and Okemos 2 p.m. Saturday at Holt for the right to move onto the semifinals.

Novi carried much of the play against Brighton, outshooting the Bulldogs 7-1, and having a few others bounce off the post.

"We hit the post three times every game, guaranteed," O'Leary said. "I don't know what it is about us. It used to frustrate us, but now just keep going, keep going, keep going."

The Bulldogs, which tied the Wildcats 1-1 in the regular season finale, never seriously threatened to score.

But Brighton was able to fend off Novi for most of the contest, which Bulldog coach Deepak Shivaraman said he thought was going to overtime.

"Credit to them, they're the defending champs," Shivaraman said. "They're lethal on the restarts and the corner kicks."

Every play was near perfect. "In any case, we were real proud of our girls."

Both teams subbed continuously during the sun-baked game.

"It was hot, but we had a lot of people to come in and out," Crawford said. "We had good shifts. We just worked hard."

Even for a team that has won two straight state championships, winning a district is still exciting. "It's always fun to win, just keep going as far as you can," Crawford said.

Other district games

Novi rolled through the first two games of district play. The Wildcats beat Walled Lake Northern 4-0 May 29 and South Lyon 8-0 two nights later.

Scoring against Northern were Katie Chalkos (2) and Crawford (2). Goals against South Lyon came from Chalkos, Emily Esbrook, Fratto, Veronica Salens, Morgan Hatley and Crawford (3).

Jeff Thiersen can be reached at jthiersen@gannett.com or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.



Novi's goalie Erin Zerio pitched a shutout against Brighton — not allowing a goal in 60 minutes of play. Here she makes a save in the second half.

Photos by JOHN HEIDER

Check novinews.com for more photos



Novi's Jamie Fratto, left, and Brighton's Kristy Morell battle for the ball in the Bulldog's zone during Saturday's playoff game.



Novi's Katie Chalkos, right, tries to block a shot by Brighton's Ashley Racette during Saturday's district soccer championship game. The Wildcats scored in the final minutes to win 1-0.

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MY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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FAMILY FEATURES

More is better when it comes to health-boosting produce. Yep, mom was right when she told you to eat your vegetables — to the tune of two and a half cups a day. You also need to down two cups of fruit each day.

Ready to up the ante on your veggie consumption? The great news is all forms count — fresh, frozen, canned, dried, and 100 percent juice. Fresh, frozen, canned and dried veggies can be easily incorporated into main dishes like Italian-inspired Chicken Vegetable Rollatini. This recipe uses fresh bell peppers, frozen spinach and a package of rice mix made with two full servings of vegetables, including broccoli and carrots. Moreover, Greek Chicken With Rice is a recipe that also calls for fresh vegetables and a package of rice mix made with two servings of veggies for convenience and added flavor. A simple Asian Noodle Salad is a tasty choice for a nutritious part of a lunch or light dinner.

Serve these dishes enhanced with the convenient dried vegetable mix and make a habit of adding appropriate portions of fresh veggies and sliced fruit to your lunch or dinner table. Before you know it, you'll be well on your way to creating your own veggie and fruit dynasty.

*Based on 2005 USDA Dietary Guidelines for a 2,000 kcal pattern.



Asian Noodle Salad

6 servings

Prep Time: 20 minutes / Cook Time: 10 minutes

- 1 package Knorr Sides Plus Veggies — Teriyaki Noodles with Asian Style Vegetables
- 1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Skippy Natural Creamy Peanut Butter Spread
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil (optional)
- 3 cups coleslaw mix
- 1 cup thinly sliced red bell pepper
- 1 cup thinly sliced cooked chicken or pork
- 1 small cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced red onion

Prepare packaged side according to directions; cool. Stir in vinegar, peanut butter and oil. Stir in remaining ingredients.

Chill about 1 hour before serving.

Nutrition information per serving: Calories 350, Calories From Fat 90, Saturated Fat 1.5g, Total Fat 10g, Cholesterol 50mg, Sodium 420mg, Total Carbohydrate 40g, Sugars 11g, Dietary Fiber 5g, Protein 25g

Greek Chicken With Rice

4 servings

Prep Time: 15 minutes / Cook Time: 25 minutes

- 2 tablespoons Bertolli Olive Oil
- 1-1/4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 medium red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves, crushed
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 bag (10 ounces) baby spinach leaves
- 2-1/4 cups water

- 1 package Knorr Sides Plus Veggies — Roasted Chicken Rice with Harvest Vegetables
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 cup crumbled reduced fat feta cheese (optional)

Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and cook chicken about 5 minutes, until chicken is thoroughly cooked, stirring occasionally. Remove chicken and keep warm. Add remaining olive oil to skillet and cook onion, red pepper and oregano over medium heat about 4 minutes, until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. Add garlic and cook 1 minute. Add spinach; toss to coat. Cover and cook about 2 minutes, until spinach is partially wilted, stirring occasionally.

Stir in water and packaged side. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook covered about 10 minutes, until rice is tender. Stir in chicken and lemon juice. Sprinkle with cheese.

Nutrition information per serving: Calories 430, Calories From Fat 110, Saturated Fat 3g, Total Fat 12g, Cholesterol 95mg, Sodium 310mg, Total Carbohydrate 41g, Sugars 6g, Dietary Fiber 6g, Protein 40g

These recipes meet Produce for Better Health Foundation (PBH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) nutrition standards that maintain fruits and vegetables as healthy foods as well as Unilever's Eat Smart Drink Smart recipe program which helps consumers identify better-for-you recipes using products from Unilever. For information on Unilever's Choices Program, visit www.unileverusa.com.

For more tasty recipes starring vegetables, visit www.knorr.com.



Chicken Vegetable Rollatini

5 servings

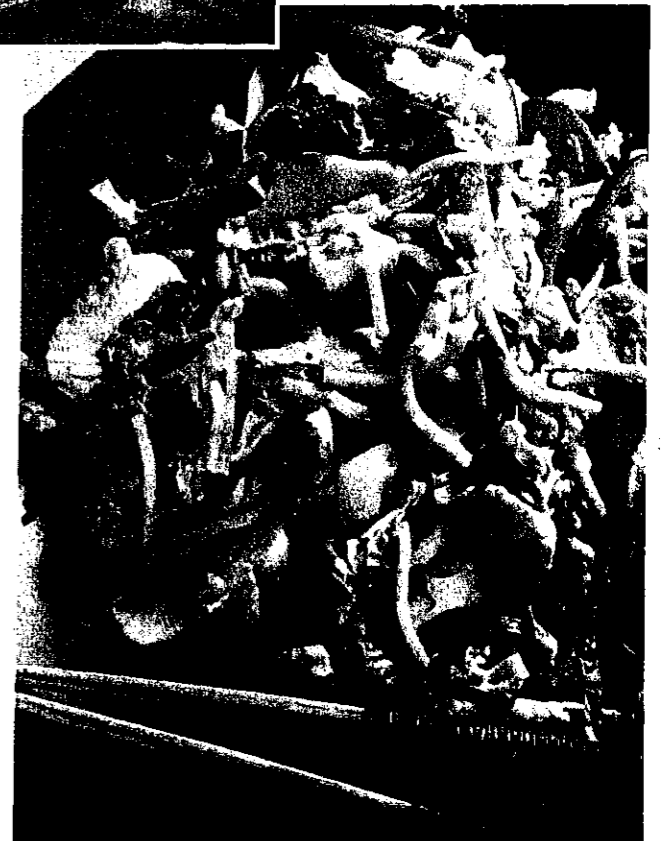
Prep Time: 30 minutes / Cook Time: 35 minutes

- 1 package Knorr Sides Plus Veggies — Cheddar Rice with Broccoli and Carrots
- 2 large red bell peppers, chopped
- 5 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, pounded 1/4 inch thick (about 1-1/2 pounds)
- 1/4 cup Japanese-style panko bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon Bertolli Olive Oil
- 1 small yellow onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1 box (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry

Preheat oven to 375°F. Prepare packaged side according to directions, omitting spread. Stir in 1 chopped red pepper; let cool 10 minutes. Top each chicken breast with about 1/4 cup rice; reserve remaining rice and set aside. Roll chicken and secure with wooden toothpicks. Combine bread crumbs with cheese in shallow dish, then coat chicken. Heat olive oil in large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and brown chicken. Arrange chicken in 11 x 7-inch glass baking dish. Bake 20 minutes until chicken is thoroughly cooked.

Meanwhile, in same skillet, cook remaining red pepper and onion with 2 tablespoons water, covered, over medium heat 5 minutes, until tender, stirring occasionally. Add garlic and cook 30 seconds, stirring. Stir in spinach and reserved rice and cook 2 minutes, until spinach is heated through, stirring frequently. Remove toothpicks and serve sliced chicken over spinach mixture.

Nutrition information per serving: Calories 340, Calories From Fat 60, Saturated Fat 1.5g, Total Fat 7g, Cholesterol 80mg, Sodium 490mg, Total Carbohydrate 32g, Sugars 6g, Dietary Fiber 5g, Protein 39g



REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

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Submitted photos

Go karts at Paradise Park whip around the world-class track designed and built by expert William Beatty. The track features a 7-inch concrete Slick Track with 27-degree banked turns, five hairpin turns, and two sweeper turns. Wednesday night is Racers Night at the Novi park.

A good time for all is waiting at Paradise Park

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

There are many reasons to make Paradise Park of Novi your entertainment venue this year.

It could be because Paradise Park was given the Novi News' 2007 People's Choice Award for the best entertainment facility.

Or it could be because Paradise Park is a fun way for kids, adults, and people of all shapes and sizes to enjoy a day of great food, high-tech laser tag, a magical black light game room, miniature golf with waterfalls and rivers, Daytona-style go kart track, trampoline center, climbing walls, and soccer cages, to name a few venues.

Or it could be because Paradise Park is a great place to host a special birthday party, holiday event, or corporate team-building event.

Better yet, it is all of these things wrapped into one package at its location at 45799 Grand River Ave., in Novi (just follow the cars in front of you, most will be visiting Paradise Park).

Owners Jeffrey and Theresa Wainwright and their staff strive to maintain the best customer service and the cleanest atmosphere of any entertainment venue in southeast Michigan. (It's not unusual to see the boss with a broom or cleaning rag in hand!)

PERSONAL EVENT HOSTESS

One needs look no further than the happy faces on party attendees to know that they are happy with their experiences. For

example, for events such as birthday parties, there are party hostesses specifically assigned to each party — not one hostess covering many parties.

"From the moment the party attendees walk in our door, our party hostess takes care of their every need," Theresa said. "That includes the food, decorations, balloons and arcade tokens (yes, all party attendees get arcade tokens). Moms love this attention because they can relax and have fun along with the kids. Maybe that's why we are now known as the Party Capital."

FRESH FOOD

And speaking of party food, Jeffrey said that Paradise Park is getting a good reputation for its homemade Perky's Pizza, made with quality ingredients and the best cheese. It is not unusual for the busy staff to prepare hundreds of pizzas in a single day for happy partygoers.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

But pizza isn't the only fresh food on the menu; Paradise Park also offers a variety of kosher items for special events such as bat mitzvahs and bar mitzvahs. Corporate party planners also have a variety of menu items to choose from — which is good — because Paradise Park has hosted parties up to several thousand people, although most average 300-600 people.

Other party events include reunions, anniversaries, first communions, and ladies night out. In fact, if you can think of any occasion to celebrate, the friendly folks at Paradise Park will put together just the right package.

The Wainwrights stress that the key to the success of the Party Capital is dedicated customer service and immaculate cleanliness (not to mention great food, too).

Beyond the special party events, Paradise Park has other features that make it very unique. The facility is 100 percent

handicap accessible — everyone can have fun that is barrier-free.

PREMIERE GO-KART FACILITY

It is not uncommon to see lots of people lined up at the go-kart track — and for very good reason. It is a "world-class track designed and built by West-Coast expert William Beatty," said Wainwright. It is a 7-inch concrete Slick Track with 27 degree banked turns, five hairpin turns, and two sweeper turns.

"We believe it is Michigan's premier go-kart facility," Jeffrey added.

There's mid-week fun at the track, too. Wednesday night is Racers Night.

Summer hours for Paradise Park are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information call (248)-735-1050 or visit the Web site at www.paradiseparknovi.com.

Indoor party and catering facilities at Paradise Park accommodate small to very large groups including corporate parties, reunions, children's birthday celebrations and more.

PARADISE PARK


45799 Grand River Ave., Novi

Phone
(248) 735-1050

Web site
www.paradiseparknovi.com

Summer hours
11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday through Thursday

11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
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