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THURSDAY April 17, 2008 Novi News

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Budget talks begin

7 p.m. tonight at civic center

By Kelly Murad STAFF WRITER

Council meets for the first time tonight to discuss the proposed budget for the upcoming 2008-09 fiscal year.

The public meeting begins at 7 p.m. in council chambers inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

As the first of three scheduled meetings, tonight's agenda includes the

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

2008-09 budget overview, the City of Novi's rainy day funds

and the capital improvement program.

The city is proposing a \$32.6 million general fund budget document.

"Typically, council won't really get into a lot of detail until the second meeting, and, depending on how that meeting goes, will dictate whether or not you need that third meeting," said councilman Andrew Mutch.

The second meeting is 8:30 a.m. Saturday and the tentative third budget meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. April 24.

Currently in his first term on council, Mutch is anticipating this budget session, which is the third he has been involved with, to be the most challenging.

"I think the biggest challenge for us is the fact that our property taxes are basically flat, we're not seeing an increase in our tax revenues," he said. "That means we're going to have to make difficult choices."

Mutch said it will also be important to look ahead, since it doesn't seem like the economy is going to turn around in the near future.

"It's a lot harder to cut from the budget for some people," Mutch said. "Each council member comes to the table with their own priorities. I think what people want to do and what they have the money for are two different things."

Earth Explorers



WOLVES

Pouring water on a sloped table with sand, Scott Wolan teaches Orchard Hills students about two of the fundamental agents of erosion, water and gravity. The lesson was part of the school's Earth Explorers' Day activities.

By Chris Jackett STAFF WRITER

Third graders at Orchard Hills Elementary School spent last Friday learning about the Earth as part of the annual Earth Explorers' Day, which featured several hands-on activities and a special visit from some normally nocturnal creatures.

Dale Smart from the Bloomfield Hills-based Bat Conservation, taught students about nocturnal animals such as bats, owls and crickets before showing several of the creatures to the excited 8- and 9-year-old students.

"We get to see how animals really look like. I liked the part where he twisted his head," said 9-year-old Mirad Hadzialjagic of Smart's demonstration.

Nine-year-old students Lincoln Cleary and Nathan Lys said they learned a lot about owls during the presentation.

"They have big eyes that their brain is smaller," Cleary said. "They have huge eyes that are the size of grapefruits," Lys added.

The 45-minute "Nocturnal Animals" presentation was the



A student listens intently to a talk about a great horned owl.

highlight of the day for many students, but they also enjoyed the other nine stations set up in four classrooms.

Students explored stations such as "Polar Paws," "Violent Volcanoes" and "Quick Quakes," each providing activities and lessons to the children.

"(I learned) how hot lava is and you don't know where the lava flows," Cleary said of the "Violent Volcanoes" station, which had students place plastic animal figures around a paper mache volcano before setting it off with vinegar. The lesson taught them about the unpre-

dictability of a volcano's lava flow as it passed over some of the animals.

"The day was one many students said they looked forward to and enjoyed, and everyone was in on the fun."

"It shows the sciences are really a hands-on activity. A lot of the science is all about learning the basics," said James Boileau, the event's organizer. "There are still kids I run into in the high school who remember what we did."

Boileau has organized the event four times since 2001, when his oldest daughter, Stephanie, was a third grader at Orchard Hills.

"We had good fortune this year that the Novi Educational Foundation funded it. With the NEF giving a grant, we can do things up very nicely."

Boileau called the event a success.

"It really requires a lot of parent volunteers and everyone's time is so valuable," he said. "We get a tremendous amount of parent support. Also, from (Principal Paul) LePae and the third-grade teachers. I think one of the biggest things is the large number of kids who get to see their parents helping out during this."

MEAP Scores

Table with columns: Grade, School, Math, Reading, Writing, ELA, Other. Rows include Deerfield, Novi Woods, Orchard Hills, Parkview, Village Oaks, Dearfield, Novi Woods, Orchard Hills, Parkview, Village Oaks, Meadows, and Middle School/High School.

Source: Michigan Department of Education

Novi students pass MEAP, rank with best in the county

By Chris Jackett STAFF WRITER

Novi Schools performed well on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests given in fall 2007, according to state-wide scores released April 8 by the Michigan Department of Education.

The MEAP testing measures math, reading, writing and English language arts skills for third through eighth graders. The program also tests fifth and eighth graders in science and sixth and ninth graders in social studies, measuring students from each school and district throughout Michigan against standard state requirements.

Novi's third- and fourth-grade students performed well in math, reading and ELA testing, with between 88.4 and 100 percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards in all three categories at each of the five elementary schools.

Novi Woods and Deerfield elementary schools led the pack with between 97.2 and 100 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards in those three categories. Novi Woods boasted 100 percent scores for third-grade math, reading and ELA, while Deerfield also scored 100 percent for third-grade math. At Deerfield, 94.5 percent of third graders exceeded state standards.

"It's a team effort. We're number one in third grade and number two in fourth," said Monique Beels, Novi's assistant superintendent of academics.

Writing improves

Despite high scores in most of the categories, many of the schools scored lower in writing, but still passed with some of the highest scores in the county.

As a district, Novi third-graders scored 82.8 percent in writing, which was the best in Oakland County. The Novi fourth-graders' 73.5 percent was the second best in the county, 0.3 percent behind Birmingham Schools. Fifth and sixth graders both finished in the top five writing scores within the county.

"Writing is more subjective and it depends on the scorer," Beels said, noting the district's writing scores have improved since adding writing specialist Mary Cooper to the staff. "I see our scores improving like crazy in the next few years."

The writing category also showed the most disparity between schools, with 22 percentage points between the highest and lowest scoring fourth-grade classes and 17.8 percentage points between the highest and lowest scoring third-grade classes. The math, reading and ELA categories showed disparities no larger than 8.8 percent between any two schools within one grade.

"They're all excellent schools. We're all doing the same thing," Beels said. "We're going to keep doing what we're doing right."

Please see MEAP, 6A

My Novi News

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NOVI WEEKEND PLANNER



FRIDAY

The Novi Wildcats girls' soccer team won the last three state titles, but there's rarely a bigger game than the baseline rivalry match with the Northville Mustangs. Head over to Meadows Stadium, next to Parkview Elementary School on 11 Mile Road, west of Taft Road, by 7 p.m. as coach Brian O'Leary and the Wildcats host the Mustangs in an early-season match up. Tickets cost \$5 at the gate.

SATURDAY

Take a spring-time stroll around the Fuerst Farm property at 1 p.m. as preservation and restoration experts are on hand to talk about the property and its future. The Novi Historical Commission Fuerst Farm Walk-Around meets at Old Township Hall, 45285 W. 10 Mile Road, between Taft Road and the Novi Public Library. Contact Kathy Mutch at (248) 224-4211 for more information.

SUNDAY

Lovers of crafts should head to Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. for the 14th Annual Sugarloaf Art Fair. The event will feature an assortment of fine art, contemporary crafts, demonstrations, food, entertainment and more than 200

fine artists and craft designers displaying their works. Admission is \$7 when purchased in advance online at www.sugarloafartfair.com, or \$8 at the door. Children 12 and younger are free. Tickets are good for all three days of the weekend event. The show also runs from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Parking is free. Don't miss out, this is one of the state's finest art fairs.

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VOLUME 52 #47



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MY BUSINESS

Thursday, April 17, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
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Walsh to host conference, offer business makeovers



Mark Young, owner of the Western Creative advertising agency, will be at Nov's Walsh College campus May 8 for the Second Annual Small Business Conference.

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes, the optimism and promise of owning a new business doesn't correlate with the knowledge to operate it properly. Walsh College and the City of Novi are working together to present the Second Annual Small Business Conference, hosted by Walsh College and featuring several Novi businesses.

"The goal of the program is to help existing businesses succeed in this economic climate," said Jan Hubbard, director of corporate relations at Walsh College. "It will help your business succeed. People are absolutely amazed at what they can learn. Everyone who speaks is going to have something for everyone to take home to use and make a difference."

The conference, which runs from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. May 8, will award small business makeovers to two businesses in attendance. Last year, the conference awarded three makeovers and the morning of May 8 will focus on how the makeover has helped those companies and could help others.

Sanit-Air, Wolvencin Carbid

Second Annual Small Business Conference

Time: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Date: May 8
Place: Walsh College, Novi Campus
Register: (248) 823-1392
Fee: \$75; \$100 after May 1
Visit: <http://smallbusinessconference.walshcollege.edu>

Featured vendors: Both Novi chambers, the City of Novi, Red Level Networks, Two Men and a Truck, Lotus Bank, Kray Chic, Nerds on Site and more.

Die Company of Troy and Atlas Wholesale Food Company in Detroit were last year's recipients, and had their companies revamped by attorneys, accountants and expert marketers and management.

"All three companies will tell you they didn't ask for help before and now they know they have to," Hubbard said. "Only those people at the conference can apply. It's a pretty selective process to select the company."

We're not in the business of saving a dying business, but saving an existing business."

The keynote speaker of the 200-person event will be Vic Conani, chair of Nightingale Conant Corp., which produces audio books, who gave his own company a makeover, making it worth millions of dollars.

The afternoon will feature seminars at the Novi Business Boulevard in the lounge, which will feature 15 vendor tables, one that will include wine from Novi Fine Wine. Of the vendors, both Novi chambers, the City of Novi, Red Level Networks, Two Men and a Truck, Lotus Bank, Kray Chic, Nerds on Site and a variety of others will be on hand.

For more information, or to register, visit <http://smallbusinessconference.walshcollege.edu> or call (248) 823-1392. Registration costs \$75 before May 1 and \$100 after, and is available at the door. Walsh alumni, Chamber members and partner registrations are \$50.

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

Eberspaecher acquires German auto supplier; Lotus bank increases team

The Eberspaecher Group, a leading supplier of automotive heating and exhaust systems based in Esslingen, Germany, acquired catem GmbH & Co. KG. Founded in 1998 as a joint venture between DBK (David + Baader GmbH/Kandel) and Eberspaecher, catem is considered the global market leader for auxiliary electric and positive temperature coefficient (PTC) heaters. Eberspaecher previously held a 50 percent interest in the catem Group, which also includes catem DEVELEC, a subsidiary based in Herford, Germany. The catem Group has more than 300 employees and reported sales of \$96 million last year.

The acquisition will not affect

BUSINESS BRIEFS

reported annual revenues of \$2.5 billion in 2006. The company's two operating divisions — Exhaust Technology and Vehicle Heating — have 5,800 employees working in 16 countries. Eberspaecher is a leading systems developer and supplier to automotive and commercial vehicle manufacturers around the world. Eberspaecher North America Inc. Private Subsidiary headquarters is located in Novi.

Lotus Bank

Lotus Bank of Novi announces the addition of the following individuals to its banking team:

- Chris Lucander, executive vice president and chief lending officer.

He is responsible for the development and monitoring of the bank's loan portfolio and managing the bank's loan officers. Lucander was previously first vice president and senior banker at JPMorgan Chase for more than 20 years. A Michigan native, Lucander received an MBA from the University of Michigan, and a BS from Tufts University.

Mary Dunn, assistant vice president of commercial lending. She is responsible for developing loan relationships, underwriting and closing loans, along with managing and monitoring portfolios. Dunn was most recently assistant vice president of commercial lending with First of America. A Michigan native, Dunn received a BBA in Finance from the University of

Michigan-Dearborn. She currently resides in Livonia with her husband Jim and three children.

Lotus Bank is a community bank based in Novi offering a full array of banking services to individuals, professionals, families and small businesses in the northwestern Detroit suburbs.

Lotus Bank is located at 44350 12 Mile Road in Novi.

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

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MY NOVI COMMUNITY

Thursday, April 17, 2008
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Garlic mustard invading Novi

Assist in removing the invasive plant at Arbor Day celebration, April 26

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Three years ago, Margaret Schmidt made the mistake of not investigating the origin of a newly sprouted plant appearing in the woods of her Novi home.

Now, Schmidt said islands of green have formed throughout the five-acre property off Wixom Road.

A member of the mustard family, garlic mustard is an invasive species endangering native plants.

"It's all over Michigan, it's all around us (in Novi). It's an invasive species plant and here in the U.S. it doesn't have any natural enemies," Schmidt said. "It has a chemical in the roots that kills off native species."

Aside from her own property, Schmidt has noticed garlic mustard growing along the trails in Island Lakes, which surround her property, in Lakeshore Park and at the corner of 10 Mile and Beck roads.

"We are aware of it and we continue to explore other opportunities to remove this invasive plant from Novi," said city forester Steve Prutz.

According to the Michigan State University Integrated Pest Management Web site, not only is

there no significant natural enemies of garlic mustard in North America, but the plant spreads rapidly, producing anywhere from 350-7,900 seeds per plant that remain viable in the soil for up to five years.

The Web site also states garlic mustard is easily transported by humans on their boots, clothing or by mowing. It tolerates low levels of light and takes advantage of disturbed habitats such as trails, roadsides and areas where trees have been removed.

"It can spread 20-100 feet a year," Schmidt said. "When it starts flowering, it's throwing out hundreds of seeds, and the seeds are viable in the ground for five years."

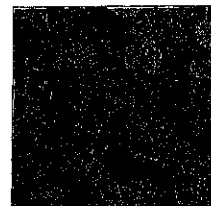
The IPM Web site states the flowers of garlic mustard are white with four petals and the plant typically flowers from late April through June in southern Michigan.

Contrary to its name, the plant doesn't have an overwhelming odor of garlic, but Schmidt said if you rub your fingers on the plants' leaves when in its young stages, you could smell the garlic.

The odor becomes less noticeable as the plant ages.

Although there is no easy way to permanently remove the plants in small areas or using herbicides for larger areas.

"I know there's a lot of invasive species that need to be taken care of, but I think this one's important," Schmidt said. "Right now is really the best time to make an attack on it because the wildflower



Garlic mustard plant.

Garlic Mustard Plant



Management options

Small infestations

- Pull plants by hand
- Remove upper portion of the roots as well as stem;
- Discard all pulled plants from the site since seed ripening continues after plant is pulled;
- Pull all plants in an area every year until the seed bank is exhausted and seedlings no longer appear.

Medium to large infestations

- Cut flowering plants by hand or with a lawn mower;
- The lower the cut the more effectively the plant will be killed;
- Cut multiple times a season, for up to five consecutive years to prevent seeds from developing;

Herbicides

- Application of one to two percent glyphosate (Roundup) provides effective control of the seedlings;
- Plants must be actively growing, which is often in March and April;
- Selectively remove plants because glyphosate will kill or damage other plants it comes in contact with.

Source: Michigan State University - PM



Margaret Schmidt takes a sniff of her hand after pulling a handful of garlic mustard plant from her Wixom Road property. Schmidt has found the non-native invasive plant covering her woods and is attempting to halt its spread with the help of her neighbors.

Don't guess . . . soil test; Teavana tea store comes to Twelve Oaks

The annual "Don't Guess ... Soil Test" program, cosponsored by Michigan State University Extension, Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA) and the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program and local retailers, began April 5. The program runs through April 27.

Through this special program, gardeners can purchase, at a number of local retailers, a soil nutrient analysis and organic matter analysis through the MSU Soil Test Lab or Plant Nutrient Lab for the special price of \$15 per sample. The price includes delivery of soil samples to the MSU Laboratory as well as customized fertilizer recommendations.

Gardeners should consider having their soil tested for nutrients to identify nutrients already in the soil and identify appropriate options for fertilizer. Without a soil test, fertilizer application on the lawn or garden is simply guesswork. Over-application of fertilizers can pollute local lakes and rivers, reduce plant quality and waste money.

My Novi, briefly

If you miss the April 27 deadline for Don't Guess ... Soil Test, don't despair. Soil testing kits are available at the MSU Extension office for \$12 throughout the year. (Note that, during non-DGST times, organic matter testing is available for an additional fee and gardeners will need to mail samples directly to the MSU Soil Test Lab or drop them off to the MSU Extension office.)

For a complete list of participating garden centers, including instruction on how to take a soil sample, additional soil testing information, and to find out about plant and pest diagnostic services available, contact the MSU Extension Oakland County Plant and Pest Hotline at (248) 858-0900 or visit www.msue.msu.edu/okland.

Baskin-Robbins hosts 31 Cent Scoop Night

Mark your calendars, 31 Scoop Night is back 3-10 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30. The event and celebration is to thank Baskin-Robbins' loyal customers and will be held at all 2,700 stores nationwide, including those in Novi and Wixom. Additionally, Baskin-Robbins will partner with the National Firefighting Foundation in an effort to extend support to the firefighting community by donating \$100,000 to the organization. Together, Baskin-Robbins and the NFFF will honor 31 firefighters from across the country who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to community service through the newly created "America's 31 Firefighting Heroes" program.

Novi Parks summer camps

The Novi Parks Department will be offering more than 15 new camps for this summer. The summer camps provide benefits in a broad array of areas including physical, emotional, social and intellectual, and programs fit a variety of interests. An example is "Sports for Shorties Camp" for pre-schoolers and "Cirque Amongus Circus Camp" where kids are introduced to the fundamentals of circus arts. New camps

for 2008 include: Farm Camp, Mountain Biking Camp, Crazy Science Camp, Lego Camp, Sports Camps (including cricket, bowling, cheer, football, tennis), Dance Camps (including ballet and hip-hop) and Painting Camp.

Camp Lakeshore will return this summer with field trips scheduled to Pump It Up, the Detroit Science Center, Red Oaks Wave Pool and the Detroit Zoo.

The full listing of Novi Parks opening of Auntie Ann's Pretzels. Auntie Ann's bakes fresh soft pretzels on-premise and offers flavors such as Cinnamon Sugar and Sour Cream and Onion. Other treats include Origami or Cinnamon Sugar, Stix, Pretzels, Dogs and Lemonade. The new store is located on the lower level, near Sears and across from the Providence Park Play Area.

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MY NEIGHBORS

Thursday, April 17, 2008
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Novi teen fights back in cancer battle

■ Youngest chairwoman for Relay For Life of Novi

By Holly Bowne
SPECIAL WRITER

For some Novi High School seniors, maintaining honor roll status, working as a captain of their sports team and applying for colleges would be enough to keep anyone busy. But 17-year-old Lainy Sekuloski decided to add a few more items to her 2008 agenda. She is not only captain of The Pavement Pioneers, but is also Luminaria chairperson for the upcoming American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Novi. The annual 24-hour event takes place June 7-8 at Novi Middle School, and is designed to raise awareness and funding to fight cancer.

"Lainy is someone who has pure blood," joked Barb Iovan, community representative for the American Cancer Society. "She is inspired for the fight against cancer. She just takes it on and often puts the rest of us to shame." Sekuloski's desire to fight the disease started when her 42-year-old mother, Mary, was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago. After completing treatment, she discovered the cancer had metastasized in her liver, and has been courageously battling since then. In response, Sekuloski joined a Relay For Life team.

Her sophomore year of high school, she captained a team of her own, and this year, she's the youngest chairwoman on staff, running the Luminaria Committee.

"I originally told Lainy this is my fight," Mary Sekuloski said. "But this is her labor of love. I'm so proud she is doing this."

The Luminaria Committee sells white paper bags to be decorated in honor of someone who battled or is currently battling cancer. They are filled with sand and a candle for an evening Luminaria Ceremony during the event.

This past November, Sekuloski attended the Relay For Life Great Lakes Summit in Indiana and learned the theme for this year's event would be "Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back."

• To join The Pavement Pioneers team, or to make a donation, go to: <http://relay.acevents.org> (<http://http://relay.acevents.org>)

• To participate in the "You Have Been Flocked by Relay For Life" fundraiser, contact Lainy Sekuloski at (248) 974-3782 or by e-mail at SportyChika567@aol.com.

• To volunteer with the Relay For Life of Novi event, contact Barb Iovan, Community Representative for the American Cancer Society, at (248) 663-3436, or by e-mail at Barb.Iovan@cancer.org.

Sekuloski has 50 pink plastic flamingos. For a \$10 donation, someone can arrange for her to "flock" a friend's or neighbor's yard during the night. It then costs the person \$5 to make the flamingos fly away, and an extra \$5 if they want to send them to someone else.

"Last year was a huge hit and the flamingos flew to almost every house in my subdivision," Sekuloski said. She's inspired when hearing all the positive results from previous years' donations. In 2007, the money raised



Lainy Sekuloski, 17, and her mother, Mary, fight the battle against cancer together.

helped introduce seven new FDA-approved chemotherapy drugs. One of those drugs, Tykerb, is currently being used by Sekuloski's mother in her treatment. While most participants walk around the track during the 24-hour relay, as a cross-country team captain, Sekuloski plans to run for part of it. "We run because we are running freaks," Sekuloski laughed, referring to herself and members of The Pavement Pioneers who are also on Novi's cross-country team. Sekuloski plans to continue running in college, as she has received an academic and athletic full-ride scholarship to the University of St. Francis in Illinois. She plans to pursue something in the medical field, maybe even focusing on oncology. But for now, Sekuloski is content to get the most out of her senior year at Novi High School, while continuing to volunteer with the American Cancer Society.

Neighboring school board member set for state House bid

By James Mitchell
SOUTH LYON HERALD EDITOR

Hoping to switch his seat on the South Lyon Community Schools Board of Education for a position among Lansing lawmakers, New Hudson resident Doug Curry announced his bid to represent the 38th District of the Michigan House of Representatives. Curry, who plans to submit a petition seeking the Republican nomination for the legislative seat, has served on the South

Lyons school board for 25 of his 30 years as a resident. The 38th District, including South Lyon, Lyon Township, Novi, Northville, Wixom and Walden Lake, is currently represented by Craig DeRoche, a Novi resident Doug Curry plans to seek another four years in office. Curry will face competition for the August primary election nomination from Novi residents Hugh Crawford and Chuck Tindall. Early into the campaign cycle,



Doug Curry

— a passion for the lifelong teacher with 20 years of service in Detroit and 10 years in Livonia classrooms, along with his current position training student teachers at Wayne State University — Curry is refining his platform on economic, budgetary, environmental and health issues. "It's a working document," Curry said. "There are things to consider that I haven't developed yet, things that need discussion." Curry faces a tough challenge as history indicates a population advantage in the district for candidates with Novi or Northville on their résumé: DeRoche and his predecessor, Nancy Cassis, were active in those communities before seeking election. South Lyon Mayor John Doyle said he wishes Curry luck, but that he will face a difficult campaign. "I believe deeply in the concept of citizen involvement in the affairs of our community," Curry said. "I hold a lifelong love and pride in the state in which I live. The idea of helping to make a positive difference has always been a driving force for me."

Novi resident captures the top spot at state geography bee



Hillside Middle School student Jimmy Tian has the whole world in his hands after he recently won the state Geography Bee held in Kalamazoo.

■ His next stop: nation's capital

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Jimmy Tian knows his geography. In fact, last Friday, the Hillside Middle School eighth-grader took first place at the state-level in the National Geographic Bee. Tian, who's first name is actually Yunchen, was one of about 100 students who competed in the event at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Since 1989, millions of students have competed each year for a \$25,000 U.S. college scholarship and the honor of being the national champion. U.S. schools participate in the bee, using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their lessons, spark student interest in the subject and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades four-eight are eligible to compete. And the winning answer? "Aurora borealis," Tian said. "I actually remember learning that in science class." Another question he answered correctly in the state bee was: "In the Northern Hemisphere, the northern lights occur when charged particles collide in the upper atmosphere. What is the other name of the northern lights?" "The answer was Badlands, and I said Scrublands," Tian said. "I had no idea." Students had only 15 seconds to answer each question. Tian doesn't watch "Jeopardy," but he did read parts of the World Almanac and spent time on Web sites with geography quizzes to prepare for the state bee. From the local news, Tian learned that he would actually travel to the nation's capital twice next month, as his eighth-grade class trip is to Washington, D.C., over Memorial Day Weekend. Tian likes school, stamp collecting and spending time on the computer and with friends, Michael and Andrew. His career choices at this point are "something to do with computers or possibly becoming a historian," he said.

"The questions include historical geography, as well as cultural, physical and political geography."

Jimmy Tian
National Geographic Bee winner

Surprise! Tian said he was surprised that he won since this was the first time he had made it to the state bee. "I expected to get kicked out in the preliminary round," he said. He admitted there was one question about a city in northeast Oklahoma (Tulsa) that he out-and-out guessed the answer and was right.

The only question he answered incorrectly asked him for the name of a major land form in North and South Dakota. "The answer was Badlands, and I said Scrublands," Tian said. "I had no idea."

Students had only 15 seconds to answer each question. Tian doesn't watch "Jeopardy," but he did read parts of the World Almanac and spent time on Web sites with geography quizzes to prepare for the state bee.

From the local news, Tian learned that he would actually travel to the nation's capital twice next month, as his eighth-grade class trip is to Washington, D.C., over Memorial Day Weekend.

Tian likes school, stamp collecting and spending time on the computer and with friends, Michael and Andrew. His career choices at this point are "something to do with computers or possibly becoming a historian," he said.

BREAKING NEWS: Go to the Web at hometownlife.com for updated news and information

Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vmitchell@gannett.com

MY LIBRARY

Thursday, April 17, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
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Promoting awareness of the Novi Public Library

■ National Library Week ends Saturday

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Local residents have been demonstrating 50 ways in which they love the Novi Public Library during this week's 50th anniversary of the American Library Association's National Library Week. For the course of one week, every year, libraries across the country draw special attention to the programs and resources provided to the communities.

"It gives you a nice time to bring awareness to the library," said Novi Public Library Director Julie Farkas. The national theme for the week of April 13-19 is "Join the Circle of Knowledge," and in Novi, in honor of the association's half a century of success, the specific theme is "50 Ways to Love Your Library."

Aside from the library's regular scheduled programming, three events were created for the public during this week. Tonight, from 7-8:30 p.m., financial planner and partner in Bloom Asset Management, Inc. Rick Bloom will host a program for adults titled "Saving for Retirement."

The Farmington Hills-based company, in its 23rd year in business, provides professional money management and financial planning services for individual investors and businesses.

"Bloom is the host of 'The Rick Bloom Show' Sundays, from noon-3 p.m. on WOTK-AM (1400), and will discuss investment strategies needed to save enough money for retirement. Registration is required for tonight's event."

On Tuesday, kids in grades three and up attended a movie and book talk from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the library. Kids who participated in the free event read the book "Jumanji" by Chris Van Allsburg before coming to the library and watching the PG-rated movie. A discussion took place following the movie where kids shared their personal opinions and interpretations of how the book and movie compared.

Last night, Pauline Druschel taught the Novi community how to have "Fun and Fabulous Book Discussions." From 7-8 p.m., Druschel offered suggestions and techniques on how to start and maintain a dynamic book discussion group.

Following Druschel's presentation, librarian Mary Storch introduced Book Club Kits, a new addition to the Novi Public Library. Each kit contains everything needed to start a book club, including eight copies of the same book and a folder with discussion items. One person selects a book from the 30 different titles and checks out the kit for six weeks.

"If your book club is bigger (than eight people) we can always help you find more copies in the system," Storch said. For more information regarding the Book Club Kits, call (248) 349-0720 or visit the Novi Public Library, 45245 W. 10 Mile Road.



Members of the Book Brigade, the winning team of the 2008 Novi Public Library Battle of the Books, held April 5, stop for a photo.

Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 349-0720
Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.

Stary Time
DETAILS: Please visit library Web site or Story Time brochure.

On-Going Used Book Sale
DETAILS: The Friends of Novi Library sponsors an on-going used book sale in the library meeting room every day during library hours. \$6 for a big bag of books.

Kniters and Knotters
TIME/DATE: 5:30-8 p.m. second and fourth Monday of each month
DETAILS: Drop in for informal needlework group in Youth Area; all levels welcome.

Senior Book Discussion
TIME/DATE: Noon-1:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month
DETAILS: Book discussion group for older adults facilitated by librarian; please call to join.

English Conversation Group
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m.-noon

Battling Books
Members of the Book Brigade, the winning team of the 2008 Novi Public Library Battle of the Books, held April 5, stop for a photo.

CITY OF NOVI
NOTICE OF ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 08-120.05
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE NOVI CITY COUNCIL HAS ADOPTED ORDINANCE NO. 08-120.05 to amend the City of Novi Code of Ordinances, Chapter 20, "Massage", in order to change the definition of massage, to clarify inspection requirements, to revise the revocation procedures for establishment licenses, to revise the requirements for massage therapist permits and to make other changes of a procedural or minor substantive nature.

THE NOVI NEWS
Published Each Thursday
By The Novi News
104 W. Main Street
Northville, Michigan 48167
Periodical At Northville, Michigan
Subscription Rates:
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LIBRARY LINES
every Tuesday, 1-2 p.m. every Wednesday
DETAILS: For ages 18 and older, practice your English while you make friends; no registration required.
Saving for Retirement with Rick Bloom
TIME/DATE: 7-8:45 p.m. today
DETAILS: Come listen to financial expert Rick Bloom, from Bloom Asset Management, talk about planning for retirement. Please register.
How to Prevent Falls
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m.-noon Monday
DETAILS: A representative from the Visiting Nurse Association will discuss various topics for both seniors and family caregivers, including how to prevent falls and using canes effectively. Please register.
Ancestry Plus for Seniors
TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday, April 21
DETAILS: Learn to navigate this huge genealogy database. Find family trees, indexes, census records and marriage and death records. This is a hands-on class, so a solid understanding of Internet searching is necessary. Please register.
American Cut Glass
TIME/DATE: 7-8:45 p.m. Thursday, April 24
DETAILS: Learn more about this beautiful American art form whether you're a new or long time collector. Samples of American Cut Glass will be on display in the library lobby during April. Please register. Sponsored by Friends of the Novi Public Library.
Kiddie Karaoke
TIME/DATE: 1-1:30 p.m. Friday, April 25
DETAILS: American Idol for the pre-school set. Spend 30 minutes letting your child showcase their talents in a supportive setting. Sing songs from our repertoire or prepare your own.
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: 7 p.m. tonight inside the Educational Services Building on Taft Road

Victoria Mitchell, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 102 vmmitchell@gmail.com

MY EDUCATION A+

Thursday, April 17, 2008 www.hometownlife.com fax: (248) 349-9822

No left turns into Village Oaks, future sidewalks pending

By Chris JACKET STAFF WRITER

We're always going to do what's best for kids.

Parents and nearby residents voicing concern about the dangers of Village Oaks Elementary School students walking to school...

The Novi Civic Center will host a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight to explain the new rules in front of Village Oaks and discuss future plans...



Stopping traffic with a "stop" sign, Village Oaks Elementary School crossing guard Leslie Weirmer helps kids, parents and some four-legged friends cross the street. Adding a third crossing guard is part of the school's effort to arrival and dismissal times safer for all.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

This has been a change for everyone here," said Village Oaks crossing guard Leslie Weirmer. "Parents are concerned about the safety of their kids, and they should be."

The district and city are working together to apply for a grant through the Safe Routes to School program through the Michigan Department of Transportation.

There hasn't been any congestion with the buses and cars. They come at different times," she said. Many drivers will also have to change their route by starting Mondays, as left turns will no longer be allowed off north bound, Willowbrook Drive...

"It's not part of the Sidewalk Prioritization Plan," said City of Novi Assistant City Manager Pam Antil, who noted many grants take six to 12 months before funding is received.

One of the things that really made this thing click was Mr. (Peter) Dien, the superintendent. He could've just walked his side of the street and said there were sidewalks and it wasn't his jurisdiction," Cotoloca said.

If sidewalks are put in along Willowbrook Drive, the three crossing guard positions may be rearranged or removed.

Novi News staff writer Chris Jackett can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 122 or cjackett@gmail.com.

Community Education Preschool Program enrollment is ongoing

Preschool registration for the 2008-09 school year is now open. Class programs focus on social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.

Class NOTES

of Novi students participating in the competition. Thomas' project placed in the physics category and Wang's in behavioral science.

High school students are Chemistry Olympiads

Josh Lumley was a first-place nominee and Ruixiao Zuo was a third-place nominee at the Chemistry Olympiad competition last month.

Friends of the Novi Library offer student scholarship

The Friends of the Novi Library are offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a public school senior living in Novi who plans to pursue a college education in the fields of information/library science or related fields.

Rollercoasters highlight Camp Invention program

Children will have the opportunity to design miniature amusement park rides, create safe vehicles and brainstorm on Planet ZAK when the Camp Invention program arrives in Novi for the first time this summer.

Transatlantic communicator

Novi High School junior Dexter Zhang, a member of the Novi Middle School debate team, was one of 10 U.S. students chosen to receive The Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Initiative award.

Middle school students earn awards

Novi Middle School students Angel Thomas and Abigail Wang earned third place awards at the March 18 Detroit Science and Engineering Fair at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

Important dates for Novi High School students

Novi High School students only have a few weeks until summer vacation. Make sure the following dates are on your calendars:

- April 21 - 7 p.m. Academic Awards Ceremony at Puert Auditorium
May 3 - 7-11 p.m. Senior Prom at Rock Financial Showplace
May 20-21 - Commencement orientation for seniors
May 23 - No school for professional staff development day
May 26 - No school for Memorial Day
May 27-28 - Final exams for seniors
May 29 - 9:30 a.m. Senior breakfast, 11:30 a.m. cap and gown distribution, 1 p.m. senior picnic
May 31 - 7 p.m. Commencements at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti
June 11-12 - Underclassmen final exams

High School seniors register to vote

The Walled Lake Central High School PTSA announces its 10th Annual Senior Voter Registration and Senior Poll, at the school, 1600 Oakley Park Road, Walled Lake. The event takes place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. today and Friday.



Explosive sights

Ben Stotler, left, and Gwendyth Baker react to the sight of their "volcano" erupting after they mix vinegar and dish washing liquid during their Friday afternoon Earth Explorers' Day activities at Orchard Hills Elementary School.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Walled Lake student named ambassador for diabetes

Tyler Kramer, 12, and a Clifford Smart Middle School student was named a Youth Ambassador for the American Diabetes Association.

Nominate an Outstanding Michigan History Teacher for Odyssey Award

The Michigan Historical Center Foundation is now accepting nominations for the 2008 Odyssey Award, given annually to up to three exceptional teachers of Michigan history.

Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest 36th Annual Garden Center Sale

The Garden Center is ready to take orders and announces special week-end hours. The Center will offer a range of annual plants, hanging baskets, and combination plants.

Walled Lake Central presents 'Our Town'

The Performing Arts department of Walled Lake Central will present Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" at 7:30 p.m. April 24-26.

Novi school board member awarded leadership fellowship

By Chris Jackett STAFF WRITER

Ann Glibuzinski, Novi board of education treasurer, was awarded one of 24 state-wide fellowships through Michigan State University's Michigan Political Leadership Program.

Glibuzinski, who earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a master's degree in business administration, from Michigan State University, will take part in a rigorous 10-month curriculum on practical politics, public policy analysis and process.

As a result of his diabetes, Kramer has had the opportunity to help many of his heroes who also have diabetes, Nick Jonas of the Jonas Brothers, an American band from Weymouth, N.J., and Adam Morrison of the Charlotte Bobcats of the National Basketball Association.

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MEAP

continued from front

Baseline buddies

Novi and Northville schools have both been recognized for great educational programs for years. Although Novi was one of the highest scoring districts in Oakland County, Northville was just as highly ranked in Wayne County.



Orchard Hills Elementary School students work on fractions and other math problems. The Novi school did very well in recent the MEAP math test.

MEAP Scores

Table with columns for Grade, District, Math, Reading, Writing, ELA, Other. Rows list scores for Novi, Northville, Farmington, Walled Lake, and State Average across grades 3-8.

Source: Michigan Department of Education

Despite posting some of the highest scores in the area, both Beels and Reznierski said there's always room for improvement.

"We're still scoring below what we'd like to achieve," Reznierski said.

"We're on the right flight pattern in the design that we have."

On Campus

Northwood University

Nicholas S. Prokop will be a freshman at Northwood this fall and is a recipient of the Free Enterprise Scholarship for the 2008-09 academic year.

Albion College

Several local students were elected to leadership positions for 2008 within their Greek organization at Albion College.

Sigma Chi fraternity, SX was founded at Miami University in 1855.

The "Machis" support the Village Village for Children, Landry is a first-year student at Albion College and is a member of the Ford Institute for Public Policy and Service.



Beware of the Big Red Dogs! Students of Village Oaks Elementary, dressed as the kids' book character "Clifford" march in a recent afternoon parade.

Man puts headlock on Folk Singer after using Thera-Gesic

BEXAR COUNTY. Tim W. applied Thera-Gesic to his sore back and shortly afterwards headlocked a local folk singer in front of the drugstore for seven minutes.

RESOURCE RECOVERY AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY OF SOUTHWEST OAKLAND COUNTY (RRRASOC)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County, a public authority and body corporate, shall hold a public hearing on its proposed budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2008 on Thursday, April 24th, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. at the office of the County of Farmington Hills, Lower Level Conference Room, 91555 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48336-1165.

MICHAEL J. CSAPO GENERAL MANAGER (417-08 SLJ/NN 409649)

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MY PUBLIC SAFETY

Victoria Mitchell, editor
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Thursday, April 17, 2008
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Local teens arrested for underage drinking at party

By Kelly Murray
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Police Department busted up a high school house party April 5 on Wintergreen Circle, off 10 Mile Road, east of Beck Road.

A dozen local high school students were arrested and issued minor in possession tickets for underage drinking at the Novi residence.

It is unknown how many teens in total were attending the party. Police were called to the scene regarding a vehicle that was parked in a nearby driveway. As they approached the residence, they observed minors with alcohol in their presence.

According to Chief David Molloy of the Novi Police Department, the parents of the teen throwing the party were out of town, and no adults were present at the time.

Molloy said the 12 arrested teens were released from police custody once their blood alcohol concentration dropped below .02 percent, the illegal limit for minors.

Typically, the punishment associated with a minor in possession charge includes a fine and probation.

"It did happen off campus, so, as far as our jurisdiction high school academically, there are no consequences to that," Novi High School principal John Lawrence said. "It's something that's unfortunate, but these things happen. We're trying to deal with it and move on."

Novi News staff writer Kelly Murray can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103 or kmurray@gannett.com.

Wixom man arrested for Internet sex crimes

Daryl Jude Pribik, 46, was arrested April 11, ending a three-month investigation of alleged Internet sex crimes.

According to a press release, Pribik was arrested Friday at the 52-1 District Court in front of Judge Brian MacKenzie and released on a \$500,000 personal bond.

Pribik was charged with distributing or promoting child sexually abusive material; using a computer to commit a crime; communicating with another via computer or Internet to commit a crime; and possession of child sexually abusive material.

The four felony charges carry maximum penalties of up to 28 years in prison and fines and costs upon conviction.

As of Tuesday, the preliminary examination date was not scheduled.

Detectives of the City of Wixom collaborated with investigators of the computer and Internet crimes unit of Oakland County Sheriff's Department and police officials in New Hampshire during the three-month investigation.

According to a press release, the investigation developed from reports received from New Hampshire police officials concerning Pribik's alleged transmission of sexually explicit material to an undercover police officer in a chat room.

POLICE BRIEFS

Rock thrown through condo window

A woman called police at about 3:30 p.m. April 8, after noticing the bedroom window of her condominium was broken, reports said.

According to the victim, she left her home on Woolsey Drive earlier in the day to go to her son's house. When she returned home, just before 3 p.m., she went over to her neighbor's house. On the way back from her neighbor's house the woman noticed the broken window and returned to the neighbor's house to call the police.

The rock used to break the window was found on the floor inside the victim's home.

According to police, nothing was missing since the hole was not large enough for anyone to gain entry into the home.

Driving with suspended license

A woman was arrested for driving while her license was suspended just before 1 a.m. April 3, reports said.

A Buick Rendezvous was traveling in front of an officer, north on Beck Road, just south of Pontiac Trail.

The officer was unable to see inside the vehicle and activated the emergency lights to conduct a traffic stop.

According to the report, the driver was unaware of the unpaid parking tickets on her record.

She was arrested and released on a \$100 bond.

Bashing mailboxes

Two neighborhood mailboxes were damaged on South Lake Drive at about 10 p.m. March 31, reports said.

According to the victim, the two mailboxes were on the same stand. His wife heard a loud

Crashing noise around 10 p.m.

but assumed someone had run over a trash can.

The officer observed significant damage to both mailboxes, which appeared to have been done by a baseball bat, reports said.

According to the victim, the neighbor's house is currently up for sale and no one is living there.

Novi officer removes drunk drivers from roadways

Novi Police Officer Adam Elsen was selected by MADD of southeast Michigan to be honored at the 19th Annual LifeSaver Awards Luncheon tomorrow in Troy.

Southeastern Michigan's MADD chapter honors officers from Oakland and Macomb counties who have a demonstrated record of removing drunk drivers from Michigan's roadways.

"Officer Elsen made 33 OWI (operating while intoxicated) arrests in 2007," said Novi Police Chief David Molloy. "I am extremely proud of his hard work and sustained diligence in arresting suspected drunk drivers. Motorists who traverse through our community are much safer as a result of his professional efforts."

Novi Deputy Chief Thomas Lindberg will accompany Elsen at the luncheon, which is being held at the Troy Marriott Hotel.

"The LifeSaver Luncheon will celebrate and honor the heroes of law enforcement committed to keeping our highways and our children safe, by arresting impaired drivers in our communities," said Richard Rondeau, executive director for MADD of southeast Michigan, in a press release.

Judge Michael A. Martone of the 52-4 District Court in Troy, will serve as this year's honorary chairman and keynote speaker.

According to MADD, nearly 14,000 people are killed every year by drunk drivers with an illegal blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent. That means more than 1,000 families every month must live with the tragic consequences of drunk driving.

MADD is a non-profit organization with more than 400 entities nationwide. Founded in 1980, the organization's mission is to stop drunk driving, support the victims of the violent crime and prevent underage drinking.



For breaking news on the Web: www.hometownlife.com

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

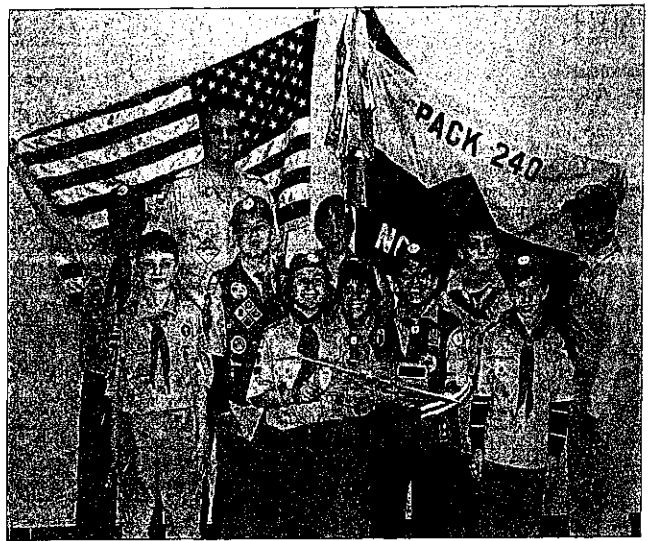
Victoria Mitchell, editor
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vmitchell@gannett.com

MY YOUTH

Thursday, April 17, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
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Members of Girl Scout troop 1897, Novi High School freshman Conn Robbins (left), Emily Patterson and Alora Adams, successfully completed their Girl Scout Silver Award. The Silver Award is the highest award Girl Scouts ages 11-14 can earn.



Ten boys from pack 240 in Novi received the highest award in Cub Scouts - the Arrow of Light award. It was presented to them in a ceremony at the Blue & Gold banquet held at Novi Middle School. Photographed are: First row, from left, Michael Bednarski, Kyle Benkarski, Aaron Pringle, Stefan Santrach, Robbie Darrow and Arya Gaddam. Second row, Andy Wilchynski, Cody Renton, Mitchell Ripper and Alex Wolff. Last Row: Den Leader John Bednarski.



Novi Woods fourth-grade student Shin Soto shows his mother some poetry while student Steven Wang looks on.



Fourth-grade student Patrick Hoen wows his parents with his poetry at the Poetry Coffee House at Novi Woods. The fourth graders hosted the poetry event for their families last month, and more than 150 participants attended.

Firefighter recruitment drive

The Novi Fire Department will hold a paid-on-call firefighter recruiting drive at Emagin Novi at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk on Saturday, April 19.

Novi Firefighters will be available to answer questions from 5-9 p.m.

Various fire prevention items and paid-on-call employment applications will be available for anyone interested. No experience necessary and training for certification is provided.

You must reside within one mile of the Novi city limits to be eligible.

For more information please contact the Novi Fire Department at (248) 349-2162 or the City of Novi Human Resources Department at (248) 349-0452.

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Larnelle Harris

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

MY OPINION

Thursday, April 17, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

COMMENTARY

Thursday, April 17, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell
EDITOR
Susan Pasiek
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Peter Hall
VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER

In our opinion: Homeschooling notification is not an undue burden

Parents have every right to homeschool their children, and Lansing needs to be very careful whenever it considers legislation that might inhibit that right.

That said, we don't feel that it's an undue burden on homeschooling parents to be required to notify their home school district that they're educating their children at home.

Three Democratic state lawmakers from the mid-Michigan area are sponsoring a bill that would require all homeschooled students to submit their names and ages to their respective school districts each fall. It would also mandate that the address and name of the parent or legal guardian of the home be submitted to the school district.

Not surprisingly, the homeschooling community is opposing the bill. They see it as unnecessary and worry that it could lead to further controls on homeschooling.

State Rep. Chris Ward, R-Genoa Township, said this bill might lead to more such legislation. "I don't think that bill is necessary, and it could be a slippery slope to denying homeschoolers their rights," Ward said.

We share those concerns, and that's why we feel this bill needs to be carefully crafted so that it protects the rights of homeschoolers. Many homeschooling parents choose this route because they want total control of their children's education, and that's their prerogative.

Parents have the right to choose the way in which their children are educated — public school, private school or homeschool. We agree that the government shouldn't be interfering with that choice.

But we don't feel it's out of line for the home school district to have a handle on how many potential school-age children live in the area. In fact, if and when this legislation is approved, we hope that it includes students in private schools as well as homeschooled students. It's a simple notification process, and we don't view it as any sort of a burden.

The legislation does not require that you obtain the district's approval to homeschool your children. It only requires notification.

"I think it's reasonable that we know where and if our children are being educated, whether it's in a public school, private school or at home," said sponsoring Rep. Joan Bauer, D-Lansing. The information could be valuable to districts in planning.

Homeschoolers are strongly opposed to the legislation, though, and many of them have already attended a rally in Lansing to voice their opposition.

Their concerns shouldn't be dismissed out of hand, and we hope that any legislation preserves their rights.

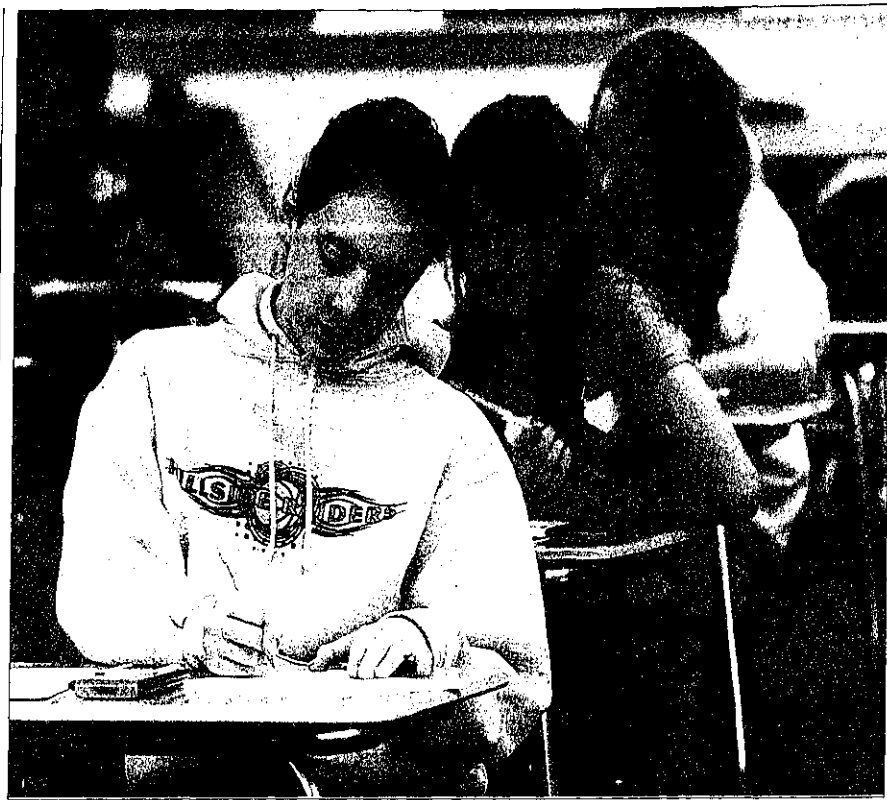


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Making the Most of MEAP

Students work on math problems last week following the release of the state MEAP results. Novi school district did very well, leading the county in many categories.

Battle of the Books Thank-you's

On behalf of the entire Youth Department of The Novi Public Library, we would like to commend the staff, staff and staff, Novi children who participated in our 2008 Battle of the Books at the Novi Civic Center on Saturday, April 5, 2008. Eleven teams read the same six books and came together in a competition to answer questions about those books. We applaud the commitment of their parents and coaches who spent countless hours reading and preparing these youngsters for the competition. To us, every single one of these young persons is a winner for participating in our Battle of the Books.

The names of the teams and their members are as follows: 1st Place: Book Brigade (Aarti Janakinam, Subas Kodali, Minu Pitchiah, Sanha Rajen, Dhruva Sridar, Sangita Srinani); Coaches Chitra Sridar and Sachin Palanichamban; 2nd Place: Sapna Dalalayi; Reshma; Gaidis; Jeswarth Kodali; Palguna Thalla; Coach Sobha Kodali) Battle Blasters: Ashi Arora, Palvi Bhardwaj, Anjali Joshi, Siya Takavale, Asmita Vinakola, Nihar; Coach Sachin Senanais; 3rd Place: Marvellous Meadows (Siva Svaroop Bongu, Sahiti Chinnamm, Rishika Dalalayi); Coach Sachin Senanais; 4th Place: Batle Blasters: Ashi Arora, Palvi Bhardwaj, Anjali Joshi, Siya Takavale, Asmita Vinakola, Nihar; Coach Sachin Senanais; 5th Place: Batle Blasters: Ashi Arora, Palvi Bhardwaj, Anjali Joshi, Siya Takavale, Asmita Vinakola, Nihar; Coach Sachin Senanais; 6th Place: Batle Blasters: Ashi Arora, Palvi Bhardwaj, Anjali Joshi, Siya Takavale, Asmita Vinakola, Nihar; Coach Sachin Senanais.

LETTERS

Political Thoughts
As a concerned citizen and a candidate for State Rep. I would like to comment on the story from the March 27th edition of the Novi News, of Politics for part time Legislature and an end to term limits. While I applaud fellow resident Patrick Downey, I'm afraid I must respectfully disagree. I do not feel it would be good for our state. I think we would be limiting ourselves on candidates to choose from and at the same time helping a select group to become more entrenched and harder to remove from office. I call the Ruling class.

On the issue of ending term limits it should come as no surprise to anyone that a current office holder would be in favor of ending them. Here too I think it would just make it easier for the current office holder to remain in office indefinitely to his own detriment and to the detriment of contributors and lobbyists and disconnected from the ordinary voter. Anyone will tell you the incumbent is the hardest candidate to beat.

I do agree that we need changes maybe we should consider longer terms and a single house legislature, I'm running for the House so let's eliminate the Senate, I believe we need to level the field and remove the Big Money then maybe we could remove the term limits. That is why I have a self imposed limit on individual donations of \$25. Also I agree that we need to cut pay and benefits Michigan being second only to California on legislature pay is totally unjustified. There is probably no list that Michigan would currently place second on that we would even want to be on. With so many of us having to take pay and benefit cuts our elected official should also.

I must say I admire Mr. Downey's effort and wish him well and if the voters want these issues on the ballot than I could not agree more. I'm always in favor of letting the voters decide after all I am a Democrat.

Karen B. Zyczynski
Novi

Recall Effort

When we elect people to serve in the State Legislature we expect them to go to Lansing and represent the interests of the citizens within their district and the State of Michigan. Regardless of your political affiliation and where you stand on the issues, you still expect to be represented.

House Bill 4044 would have repealed a law passed in 1996 which took away the right of Michigan residents to sue drug companies if the drug in question had already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

In February 2007 Representative DeRoche voted against repealing or adjusting this 1996 law. As a result, Michigan residents continue to be the only citizens in the U.S. who are denied the right to sue.

Support for the repeal of this statute would have cost the State nothing.

Retaining this law did nothing for the Michigan economy as Pfizer still moving its headquarters to another state.

Recently there appeared an article in one of our newspapers about a class action law suit against a drug company over a diabetes medication. The article pointed out that Michigan residents would not be included in the suit.

This recall effort is about holding our legislators accountable for their actions. It is about building public awareness of how we are being represented in Lansing so that we can make more informed choices in the future. It is about electing people to our legislature who have the ability to work collaboratively with their colleagues to solve the very pressing problems facing our state.

Chuck Tindall
Novi

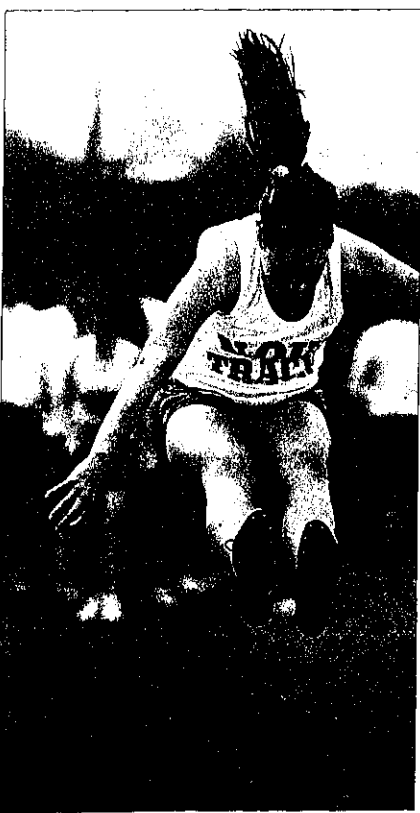


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Flying High

Wildcat Nicole Land competes in the longjump.

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: vermitchell@gannett.com
Deadline: Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

PHIL POWER: Group's recall tactics are shameful



About Phil Power

Think Michigan legislative politics are all sweet and light these days, following last year's partisan bruising budget wars? If so, you might want to take a look at what's going on in the 17th State Representative District. It consists of a corridor of land that is mostly shaped like the northern part of Idaho, and includes Redford Township, part of southeastern Livonia and northern Dearborn Heights. That's the turf that the current Speaker of the House, Andy Dillon, calls home. But it's also the site of an increasingly ugly campaign to recall the 46-year-old Democrat from his seat.

Words like "hug," "lar," and "criminal" are flying around freely and wads of money are being spent. The recall, one of several mounted by the Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, is supposedly in response to Dillon's vote last fall to increase the state income tax to overcome a billion-dollar-plus deficit in the state's budget.

Initially, six representatives and four senators, including both Republicans and Democrats, were targeted for removal.

But it now looks as though Dillon's is the main focus of the recall movement. That, in turn, raises the prospect that the right of recall is being manipulated for purely partisan purposes. The Michigan Constitution says that valid signatures of 25 percent of registered voters who voted in the last election for governor are enough to force recall of a sitting lawmaker.

In the case of the 17th district, that comes to about 8,720 signatures, due by May 1. Recall advocates are led by former State Rep. Leon Drolet, now a Macomb County commissioner, and Rose Bogaert, of Dearborn Heights. She is chairwoman of the Wayne Association and Taxpayers to Recall Andy Dillon.

Bogaert says her group wants to collect at least 10,000 signatures, to make sure they have a cushion; some names are always certain to be invalid or duplicates.

According to three sources who asked for anonymity for fear of harassment, the pro-recall people started out paying \$2 for every signature. That went to \$4 each, then \$6. Now the going rate appears to be \$10 per name.

That's a lot of dough! If they're aiming for 10,000 signatures, that's going to cost a cool \$100,000, not counting other expenses like postage (fliers have been mailed to all houses in the district) newspaper ads, office and legal expenses. That's big money.

All things considered, I wouldn't be surprised if total campaign costs come to more than \$250,000.

So where's all this money coming from? Democrats and Dillon supporters talk darkly about far right-wing, out-of-state moneybags. Lending credence to this suspicion is the fact that the national anti-tax guru, Washington-based Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, is a member of Drolet's board.

Two long-term Lansing lobbyists, who wouldn't go on the record, told me big GOP money is behind the effort, "because it will be a big feather in their hat if they knock off the Democratic Speaker of the House." They also mention House Minority Leader, Republican Rep. Craig DeRoche, R-Novi, although he denies being involved.

When I asked Bogaert directly about the money, she wouldn't tell me.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1999. He is also president and founder of The Center for 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 power@hcnnet.com.

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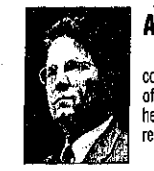
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Tom Watkins: 'Right is right and wrong is wrong' - A Worthy goal



About Tom Watkins

Eddie Mae Jones would repeat often, "Right is right and wrong is wrong." When the Wayne County Prosecutor decided to charge Mayor Kilpatrick and Christine Beatty, Eddie Mae's words came to mind.

It is now time for our system of justice to work to decide who is right. All should remember, under our system of justice, the Mayor and Beatty have a right to a presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Jones, Eddie Mae to me and those who loved her was a thoughtful, jovial woman who was raised in Birmingham, Ala., and had a front row seat to all the racism and bigotry the South had to offer in the 1940s and 50s. She later lived and died in Detroit.

Eddie Mae would have my family and me to her state-ly home on the west side of Detroit for her mouth-watering beef brisket on Sundays after church. I was in awe of her stunning home and friends that were more upper middle class than anything I had been exposed to growing up in Washington, DC, in the 1960s. Her home was often filled with the business, legal, judicial and political elite of the City of Detroit.

All bright, thoughtful, capable people sitting around her dinner table discussing the issues of the day.

As Mayor Kilpatrick's troubles have spilled out for all to see, these conversations came back into my consciousness.

A regular dinner guest at Eddie Mae's home was Col. Cliff Worthy, a career military man and the father of Wayne County Prosecutor, and former Judge, Kym Worthy. Col. Worthy was an imposing figure whose words and sense of integrity and decency were as straight as his military posture. There was never a time that I did not feel I learned and grew as a human being when I was in Col. Worthy's presence. I do not recall if I ever met future Prosecutor Kym Worthy at Eddie Mae's home. I did tell her a few years back that I knew she would serve the citizens of Wayne County well, with integrity and fairness, because she was her father's daughter.

I would hold that same belief if Prosecutor Worthy decided to file no charges. I believed her when she said when beginning her investigation, "Only the facts and evidence would guide us."

The prosecutor has made her decision. It is now up to others to judge if she made the right one. Now, it is up to Worthy's team, as the peoples' lawyers, to convince 12 jurors beyond a reasonable doubt that they are guilty as charged.

I strongly believe in the honesty and professionalism of Prosecutor Worthy. I equally believe in the presumption of innocence.

"Right is right and wrong is wrong," my good friend, Eddie Mae Jones, would remind us all. Her words of wisdom are as relevant today — perhaps more so — as they were then.

May truth, "right" and justice prevail.

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HOT TICKET: Win the war against toxins 1 p.m. Saturday at Better Health Store, 42875 Grand River Avenue

Victoria Mitchell, editor (248) 349-1700, ext. 102 vemiche@annett.com

MY BULLETIN BOARD

Thursday, April 17, 2008 www.novibulletinboard.com fax: (248) 349-9832

EVENTS

23rd Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. today LOCATION: Rock Financial Showplace... CONTACT: (248) 858-8705

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America Open House TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. today LOCATION: 40550 Grand River Ave... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Lunch with Lou TIME/DATE: Noon-2 p.m. Saturday LOCATION: Outback Steakhouse... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

PDA and Smartphone Workshop TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 23... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Boater and Water Safety Seminar TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday LOCATION: Novi Civic Center... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Paratrooper Drop TIME/DATE: 3:45 p.m. Wednesday LOCATION: Catholic Central High School... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Novi Parks Department Summer Camps DETAILS: The Novi Parks Department is offering over 15 new camps... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

CONTACT: (248) 347-0400

"Sex and The Second City" TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Detoxifying Events at Better Health LOCATION: Better Health Store... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Second City Tickets DATE: Saturday, May 10... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Paw Print Inn Open House TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, April 26... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Novi 4th Grade Roller Skating Party TIME/DATE: 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 28... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Waldenwoods Craft Show Fundraiser TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, April 28... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

DETAILS: Art Van will celebrate Arbor Day by donating 3,000 spruce trees... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Business Accelerator Luncheon TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. registration... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Novi Chamber of Commerce The chamber is celebrating 40 years of business... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Key Tax Issue Conference TIME/DATE: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, April 23... CONTACT: (888) 877-4273

Walsh College, Business Leadership Institute LOCATION: 41500 Gardenbrook Road... CONTACT: (248) 823-1392

American Business Women's Association Meetings TIME/DATE: 8:15 p.m. second Wednesday of every month... CONTACT: (248) 823-1392

Financial Round Table TIME/DATE: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Home-Based Business Roundtable TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, May 8... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Novi Rotary Club TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group TIME/DATE: 8-9:30 a.m. third Thursday of every month... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Walsh College, Business Leadership Institute LOCATION: 41500 Gardenbrook Road... CONTACT: (248) 823-1392

American Business Women's Association Meetings TIME/DATE: 8:15 p.m. second Wednesday of every month... CONTACT: (248) 823-1392

List your event in our calendar!

To be included in My Bulletin Board, please send event name, date, time, location, details and contact... CONTACT: (248) 349-9832



Deadline: Must be received by noon on Monday to be published in the Thursday edition... CONTACT: (248) 349-1700

Thursday, May 1 LOCATION: The Maples Club, 31260 Wakefield... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

31st Annual Spring Golf Scramble TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. Monday, May 19... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Novi Rotary Club TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Females in the Family Business Affinity Group TIME/DATE: 8-9:30 a.m. third Thursday of every month... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Walsh College, Business Leadership Institute LOCATION: 41500 Gardenbrook Road... CONTACT: (248) 823-1392

Message Therapy TIME/DATE: By appointment... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Novi Rotary Club TIME/DATE: Noon every Thursday... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

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learn how to determine which plants will perform best in your garden... CONTACT: (248) 858-0887

Providence Center for the Hearing Arts LOCATION: Assarian Cancer Center... CONTACT: (248) 465-5455

Novi City Council Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Monday of month... CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 6... CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi Community Education Corner CONTACT: (248) 449-1206... CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

Walled Lake City Library LOCATION: 1498 E. West Maple Road... CONTACT: (248) 624-3772

Library Lines CONTACT: (248) 449-1206... CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

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SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi Community School District Board of Education Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. tonight... CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

Novi City Council Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Monday of month... CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 6... CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi Community Education Corner CONTACT: (248) 449-1206... CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

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drop-in for playtime and story time... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Mommy and Me TIME/DATE: 10:30-11 a.m. Thursday, April 17, 24 and May 1... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Preschool Story Time TIME/DATE: 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday, through April 29... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 6... CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi Community Education Corner CONTACT: (248) 449-1206... CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

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Walled Lake City Library LOCATION: 1498 E. West Maple Road... CONTACT: (248) 624-3772

Library Lines CONTACT: (248) 449-1206... CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

Tuesday 8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread 9 a.m.: Line Dance-Int... CONTACT: (248) 349-1106

Novi Community School District Board of Education Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. tonight... CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

Novi City Council Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Monday of month... CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 6... CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi Community Education Corner CONTACT: (248) 449-1206... CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

Walled Lake City Library LOCATION: 1498 E. West Maple Road... CONTACT: (248) 624-3772

Library Lines CONTACT: (248) 449-1206... CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

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Grief Support Quilter's Group TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. first and third Wednesday of month... CONTACT: (248) 953-6012

Novi Community School District Board of Education Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. tonight... CONTACT: (248) 449-1204

Novi City Council Meeting TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Monday of month... CONTACT: (248) 347-0470

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you and your children can make friends and get what you need accomplished... CONTACT: Sue Tracz (248) 380-0998

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Library Lines CONTACT: (248) 449-1206... CONTACT: (248) 449-1206

continued from 15A

Widowed Friends Support Group
 DETAILS: Widowed Friends of the Archdiocese of Detroit is a peer support group.
 CONTACT: For more information, call Marilyn at (586) 739-9406

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HEALTH

St. John Providence Hospital
 LOCATION: Grand River and Beck Roads, use Beck Road entrance
 Dinner with a Doctor
 TIME/DATE: 6:30-8:30 p.m., last Thursday of month
 LOCATION: Conference Rooms

A, B and C
 CONTACT: Free registration for lecture and dinner by calling (888) 440-7325

Cancer Prevention and Survival Cooking Course
 TIME/DATE: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays through April 22
 LOCATION: Providence Center for the Healing Arts, Assarian Cancer Center

DETAILS: The Cancer Project, a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing cancer prevention through education and research, is offering a free, eight-session cooking course designed to help Novici residents prevent and survive cancer through proper diet and nutrition. No cost.
 CONTACT: James Lester at (248) 465-5455 to register.

ONGOING

SWOCC Studio Tours
 LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington
 DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission Studios local studio.
 CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840

Gardeners of Northville and Novi
 TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. second

Monday of month through May
 LOCATION: Rotates between Novi Civic Center and the Northville Library
 DETAILS: Visitors welcome.
 CONTACT: (248) 231-2334 or visit www.gardenersnorthville-novi.org

ROCK FINANCIAL SHOWPLACE

46100 Grand River Ave. Call (248) 349-5600 or visit www.rockfinancialshowplace.com for more information.

Sugarloaf Art Fair
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

DETAILS: Over 300 exhibitors, craft demonstrators, specialty foods and entertainment in this event. Admission is \$8 for adults for all three days, children 12 and under are free. Free parking. \$1 off coupons available at www.sugarloafcrafts.com.
 Michigan Antique Arms/Wolverine Knife Collectors Show
 TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday
 LOCATION: Hall A
 DETAILS: Two shows for the price of one. Buy, sell, and trade

rare and collectible pieces. Admission is \$6, parking \$5.
International Spring Classic Car Show and Auction
 TIME/DATE: Preview 3-8 p.m. Friday, April 25, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, April 26, and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, April 27

DETAILS: Nice cars priced for auction. No charge for Friday night preview. Cost for Saturday and Sunday is \$10 for one day and \$15 for weekend. Ages 12 and under are free. \$5 parking.
International Women's Show
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, May 1; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, May 2; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, May 3; and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, May 4

DETAILS: Food, fashion and fun. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$6 for ages 6-12 and free for 5 and younger. Advance tickets available at Meijer Stores. \$1-off coupons available online. Strollers permitted. \$5 parking.

CLASS REUNIONS

Northville High School Class of 1968
 DETAILS: Anyone interested in a 40th reunion for the Class of 1968, please contact Ron Barnum at (248) 347-8808.

Northville High School Class of 1978
 DETAILS: The 30-year reunion is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 2, 2008 at the Radisson Livonia.

The cost is \$75 per person. "Crasher" tickets are available for the classes of 1976, 1977, and 1979 for \$25. A pre-party will be held Friday, Aug. 1 at The Chase Bar & Grill, Northville. Contact: Janet Eisele Junca by e-mail at juncaj@sbcblog.net

Northville High School Class of 1988
 DETAILS: The Class of 1988 is planning a 20th reunion for the weekend of July 26, 2008. For further information, please contact Jennifer Clarkson at jclarkson2004@yahoo.com.

Plymouth High School Class of 1968
 DETAILS: The Class of 1968 is looking for classmates for their 40th Class Reunion to be held July 19, 2008 in Livonia. For more information, contact Janet (Shady) Johnston at (734) 437-3534 or e-mail to pns40threunion@charter.net.

August 10, 2008 at Baker's of Milford. For more information, call Barb Cook at (248) 349-9382.

Dearborn and Edsel Ford High School Class of 1958
 DETAILS: The 1958 January and June Classes of Dearborn and Edsel Ford High Schools are having a combined 50-Year Reunion to be held on Saturday August 2, 2008 at the Dearborn Country Club. Judy Richards Goerke 313-562-9031. Judygoerke@yahoo.com or Shirley Chiodo Peters 248-348-9443. Shirley.peters@villageford.net may be contacted for further information.

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Cass Tech Class of 1958
 DETAILS: The 50 year class reunion will be held October 11, 2008. For more information, call Isabelle, (313) 892-4626 or go to casstech58.com.

REGIONAL

Annual Lincoln/Reagan Dinner
 TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. tonight
 LOCATION: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Reserve Officers Association 2008 State Conference
 TIME/DATE: 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Saturday
 LOCATION: Selridge Air National Guard Base
 DETAILS: The theme is Reserve Reconstitution and You. The keynote speaker is Ms. Jennifer C. Buck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs. Other guest speakers include: Maj. Gen. William Kirkland, USA, Commanding General, 84th Training Command; RADM Thomas F. Kenedzowski, USNR, Reserve Vice Commander, Naval Network Warfare Command; Col. Gary Beebe, USAF, Commander 927th Air Refueling Wing (This is the last Air Force Reserve unit at Selridge). They will be moving to Modill Air Base in Tampa at the end of April). Capt. Marshall Hanson, USNR (Ret), ROA Director of Legislation; Lt. Col. Schuring, USMC; and Lt. Col. Scott Murdoch, USAR. Conference includes continental breakfast and lunch.
 CONTACT: herb.renter@yahoo.com

Michigan Magic Day 2008
 TIME/DATE: 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday

As the Page Turns
 LOCATION: 149 N. Center St., Suite 102, Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 912-0085 or visit www.asthepageturns.biz
Willie Horton Book Signing
 TIME/DATE: 7-9 p.m. tonight
 DETAILS: Former Detroit Tiger and 1988 World Series legend Willie Horton will sign copies of his Collectors Edition book "The People's Champion." The book is not sold elsewhere but will be for

Night Before Party
 TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Friday
 LOCATION: Comfort Inn, 2455 Carpenter Road, Ann Arbor
 DETAILS: Admission is \$10.
 CONTACT: For more information on Magic Day, call Bill at (313) 937-1577 or visit www.aamagic.org

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"
 TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Friday, April 25-Saturday, April 26; Thursday, May 1-Saturday, May 10; and Thursday, May 15-Saturday, May 17. Matinees at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27, May 4 and May 11
 LOCATION: Farmington Players Theatre, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington
 DETAILS: Tickets are \$18, \$16 on Thursdays and \$16 for students. Purchase tickets at the box office (248) 553-2355 or online at www.farmingtonplayers.org.

LOCATION: Ypsilanti High School, 1885 Packard Road, Ypsilanti
 DETAILS: The Ann Arbor Magic Club (IAM Ring 210/SAM Assembly 88) is hosting this event. Included will be a Dealers Room, Senior Stage Contest, Junior Stage Contest, a Close-up Contest and a Close-up Show. Lectures will be taught by Martin Cox, Patrick Page and Michael Woodward. They will also perform with Rick Fisher at the evening show. Admission for the all-day event is \$50.
Evening Show
 TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. Saturday
 LOCATION: Ypsilanti High School
 DETAILS: Hosted by Hank Moorehouse with performances by lecturers listed above. Admission is \$12. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Suburban Republican Women's Club Meeting
 TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 24
 LOCATION: Pic-A-Bone Restaurant, 38325 Six Mile Road, Livonia
 DETAILS: The speaker will be Elaine Donnelly, President of the Center for Military Readiness. The cost for the luncheon is \$12. Visitors and guests are welcome. Reservations required.
 CONTACT: (734) 367-9332

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Mem-To-Mom Sale
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 26
 LOCATION: Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft Road (north side between Merriman and Middlebelt roads), Livonia
 DETAILS: Hosted by Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool. Sale will feature a bake sale, kids clothing, baby/toddler gear, toys and lots more. Admissions is \$1

and strollers are allowed. If interested in renting a table, please e-mail Mellinda at mellinda@bryce-family.net.
Monday: 10-11 a.m. Exercise Class
Tuesday: 10 a.m.-noon Krio/Crochet and Sew Group; noon-2:30 p.m. Line Dancing
Wednesday: 10-11 a.m. Exercise Class
Second Monday: 11:30 a.m. Send your calendar items to Novi News, 104 W. Main Street, Suite 101, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to vemitchell@gannett.com.

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City of Wixom
 CONTACT: Community Services Programs, 49045 Pontiac Trail, Wixom; (248) 624-2850
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Spring sights
 Clouds approach Novi's Rock Financial Showplace early Friday evening as an early spring storm brews on the western horizon.

Monday: 10-11 a.m. Exercise Class
 Tuesday: 10 a.m.-noon Krio/Crochet and Sew Group; noon-2:30 p.m. Line Dancing
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GOT A STORY IDEA? Contact the Novi News to spread the word about what's going on in Novi

Victoria Mitchell, editor
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102
vmitchell@gannett.com

MY ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, April 17, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
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Wine, Chocolate, Jazz and all that Art

ArtsNovi
inaugural event
Saturday

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Novi is known for many things, but, generally, art isn't one of them, until now.

The Novi-based, non-profit organization ArtsNovi is hosting a black-tie optional event, Saturday at Rock Financial Showplace.

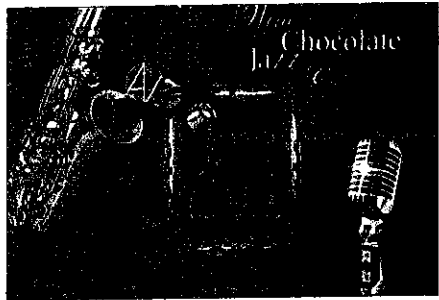
"This is the first major inaugural event for the group," said ArtsNovi board member Kathleen McLallen. "We're attempting to raise money so we can have more of these events."

Tickets for "Wine, Chocolate, Jazz and all that Art" are \$60 per person or \$110 per couple, and the festivities kick off at 8 p.m.

Radio stations WVMV-FM (98.7 Smooth Jazz) and WEMU-FM (89.1) will also be giving away tickets for the event.

The event will exhibit work of more than 20 artists, including some exclusive to Novi.

"We're not restricting anything to Novi, but it's delightful to have artists from Novi," McLallen said. "There's a very diverse mix of art, from abstract to still life. One of the goals of ArtsNovi is to promote how vital all of the arts are



in their forms to a community."

The exhibition will feature pieces of glass, pottery, sculptures, drawings and photographs, among other works of art that will be for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting ArtsNovi.

The after-dinner event will include a decadent array of desserts, including chocolate, fresh fruit and cheese, a gourmet coffee bar and wine tasting.

"You'll have an opportunity to sample some wines. We'll have a decent variety - some whites, some reds," said Brian Burke, owner of The Grapevine.

The Grapevine is one of the many local sponsors of the event and will be providing the wine for sampling.

"Particularly, in this economy, we're so grateful how generous people have been with going with



Brian and Lori Burke in their Novi MainStreet wine bar, The Grapevine. The Grapevine will be providing the wine for the April 19 "Wine, Chocolate, Jazz and all that Art" at Novi's Rock Financial Showplace. The event is sponsored by ArtsNovi.

Filmmakers debut horror movie at Emagine Theatre

By Aileen Wingblad
STAFF WRITER

If you have a taste for horror movies — especially those credited in Horror Valley's back yard — you can get your fill at the Emagine Theatre in Novi tonight.

Emagine will present the debut of "Born of Earth," the latest supernatural thriller from Milford-based motion picture production company The Skeleton Factory. Filmed last fall in Milford, South Lyon and other metro-Detroit locations, the flick stars Daniel Baldwin — of Hollywood's famed Baldwin brothers — James Russo and Academy Award nominee Brad Dourif.

"Born of Earth" tells the tale of Danny Kessler, played by Baldwin, whose wife is murdered and two kids are taken underground by creepy creatures. Police consider Kessler insane and write off the incident as a

bizarre animal attack. But the distraught Kessler knows what he saw really happened and spends the next five years trying to find his kids.

Eventually, he hooks up with a professor who believes him, and it's a race against time before the ghosts return for Kessler's sister-in-law and niece.

Movie-goers familiar with the local area will recognize several backdrops in "Born of Earth," including downtown Milford's Main Street, the site of a massive slaughter — one of the film's most gruesome scenes. Other segments were filmed at a home in Milford, near the gravel pit at Moore and South Hill roads and in the South Lyon Cemetery.

Producer Todd Brunswick of Milford said featuring scenes in and around one's hometown lends a special flair that local viewers enjoy.

"To me, when I was a kid and

saw something in a movie I recognized, like the Renaissance Center in "Hevelly Hills Cop," it always made me feel good," he said.

"Born of Earth" is directed by Brunswick's wife, Tommy, who co-founded the Skeleton Factory with Arlene Goldenberg. It's the Skeleton Factory's ninth film — and the first that includes three recognized actors through its entirety, Brunswick said.

"It's really cool to have actors of this caliber take on these major roles," Brunswick said. "Daniel's a damn fine actor, and James Russo is a major, major talent. The best thing about him is it's all about his craft, all about what makes for a better character. And Brad is the same way."

Brunswick said "Born of Earth" is generating a lot of interest throughout the industry and that the production company has developed a strong reputation.

"A lot of people know Tommy

and I pretty well now, and we are really hitting our stride," he said.

Still, the Skeleton Factory is handling any prospective distribution deals with patience.

"We want to sign with the right person, make the right deal," he said.

Tickets for the premiere are \$10, available at the door or online at www.myspace.com/heskeletonfactory. Screenings will be at 7 and 9 p.m. The 9 p.m. show will also feature "Little Red Devil," produced in 2007 by the Skeleton

Factory and also shot locally. Emagine Theatre Novi is at 44425 West 12 Mile Road, in the Fountain Walk of Novi.

Contact Aileen Wingblad at (248) 685-1507 ext. 261 or at awingblad@gannett.com.



Submitted photo
Producer Todd Brunswick and director Tommy Brunswick have fun with gore while movie making in downtown Milford. The film debuts next week.

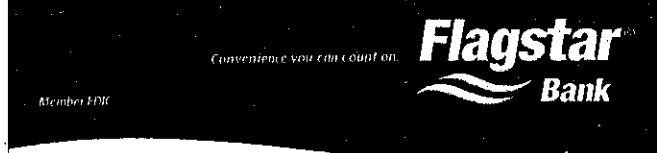
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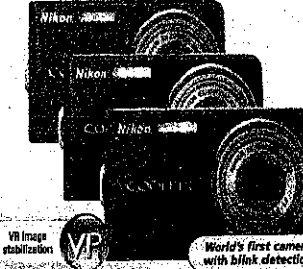
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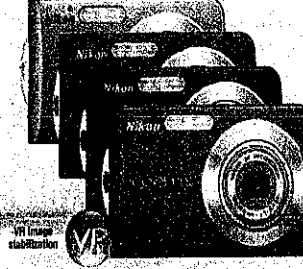
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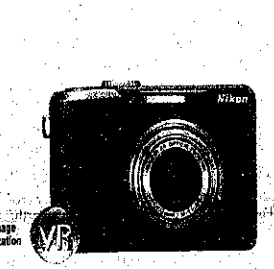
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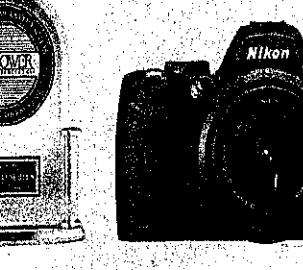
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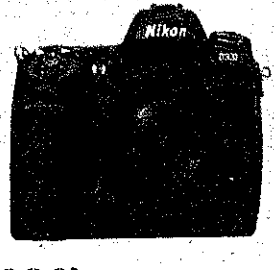
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My Novi Sports

Photos: CC lacrosse's win vs. Northville

SPORTS, 3B

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: BOYS TRACK

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

THROWING INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

Tyler Mouch launches Wildcats' fourth-best discus throw

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Novi first-year track head coach Chris Payton got some news that shocked him at the April 8 meet against Milford.

Tyler Mouch launched the discus 145-11, good enough for the fourth-best throw in Wildcat history.

"It was awesome," Payton said. Some of the guys came over and they were like, 'Mouch just threw 145.' My jaw hit the floor. 'He was known as a shotput guy, I knew it was in there, I just wasn't sure if it was going to come out this early in the season.'

Payton is looking forward to Friday's meet against Pinckney to see if Mouch can continue to improve on his throw.

"He set the bar high early, but that's good," he said. "That's going to motivate him for the rest of the year."

"We expected big things from him this year. He threw really well last year, and we knew he would be stronger this year."

Mouch is headed to Northwood to play football after this year, but Payton is hoping Mouch ends his Novi career as good as he started the beginning of this season.

Mechanics

While strength would be an obvious factor in throwing the discus, Payton said there are many more factors in becoming good at it. The mechanics of the throw are even more important.

"You think these big guys just go out there and throw it as hard as they can. It's a lot more than that," he said. "Everything has got to be perfect - the way the discus is released at the right angles, it's timing, the spin, it's just so much."



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

See **MOUCH, 2B** Wildcat Tyler Mouch prepares to throw the discus during a home meet in April.

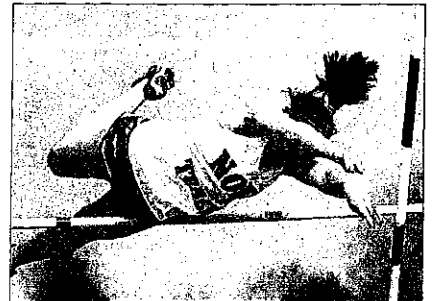


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Katlyn Shelar clears the bar while pole vaulting during an April home meet.

Novi roundup: Baseball 4-0 behind Scott

Track teams fall to Milford

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Novi baseball (4-0) hammered KVC for Milford 11-0 in five innings in the Wildcat home opener. Novi went on to sweep a doubleheader with Pinckney 8-5 and 6-3 Monday.

Against Milford, Tyler Scott allowed just one hit for the shutout. The lone Milford hit came in the fourth inning, a bloop single.

Justin Eid led the offense, going 3-for-3 with three runs batted in. Pat Schlenke also knocked out three hits in three trips to the plate with two RBI.

Mark Heard started the scoring with a two-out, two-run triple in the first inning.

Scott also picked up the win in the opening Pinckney game. He's off to a 3-0 start after going the distance, allowing five earned runs but picking up 11 strikeouts.

Mark Heard earned the win in the second game, also going the distance.

Eid, Danny Kilger, Celeski and Bobby Mitchell provided run-scoring hits in the opener.

In game two, the Wildcats were tied at three in what would be the final inning because of darkness before lashing out with five hits for three runs.

Scott highlighted the inning with a two-run homer.

KVC Standings			
Baseball			
	W	L	W %
Brighton	3	0	.750
Lakeland	2	0	.667
Milford	2	0	.667
Pinckney	1	0	.500
Howell	1	0	.500
Novi	0	0	.000
South Lyon	0	2	.000
Softball			
	W	L	W %
Lakeland	2	0	.667
Milford	2	0	.667
Pinckney	1	0	.500
Howell	1	1	.500
South Lyon	1	2	.333
Brighton	1	2	.333
Novi	0	1	.000
Hartland	0	2	.000

April 8. Tyler Mouch had the Novi highlight of the day with a throw of 145-11 to win the discus. The throw was the fourth longest in school history.

Other highlights included Arshaun Hall with a win in the 100 meters (11.51) and Luke

Boys Track

The Novi track season started with a 89-48 loss to Milford on

See **ROUNDUP, 2B**



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Northwood bound

A quartet of Wildcats signed their letters of intent to attend Northwood University to continue playing their sports at the collegiate level. From left: Mark Heard, Shaun Ryzdewski, Nick Prokop and Pat Schlenke.

CC lacrosse wins 2, loses 1

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central lacrosse rolled to a couple of big wins before falling to Western Reserve Academy in the past week.

The Shamrocks dominated Northville 13-5 to start the week's games. Matt Aubrey led the charge with four goals, and Jack Durmsa added three more.

CC next beat Culver Military Academy 10-3. Culver was the Indiana state champ last year. Mitch Burgin, Durmsa, Aubrey and Brad Janer had two goals each.

Western Reserve Academy proved why it owns a No. 25 ranking in the nation. Janer led the offense with a goal and assist.



Photos submitted

See **CC ROUNDUP, 3B** Chad Formica carries the ball upfield against Northville.

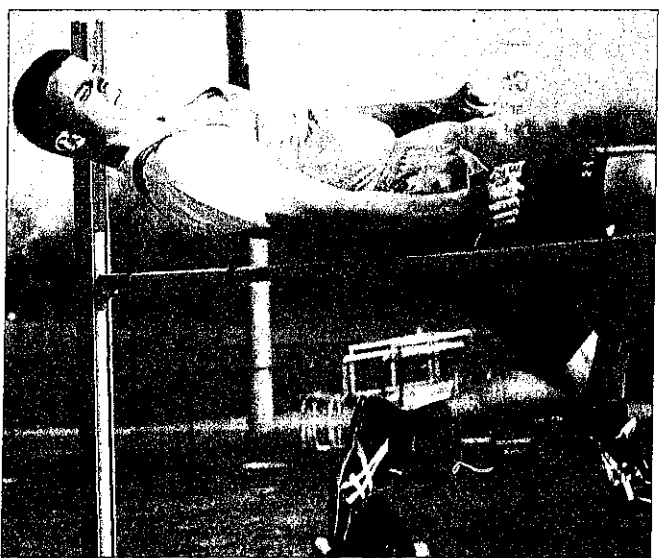
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SPEEDY 'CATS



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Shamita Kandra competes in the long jump during Novi's April 8 home meet against Milford.



Novi high jumper Joe McNamara leaps up during an April home meet against Milford.

MOUCH: Throwing into the discus record books

continued from front

Part of the improvements can be traced to some changes that happened with Payton taking over the program.

The Novi boys and girls teams changed things up this year and have combined to train together. Erin Wicker went from coaching just the girls to adding coach of the boys to her plate. The former Alma thrower has helped tremendously Payton said.

"It's definitely helped them out a ton. They're learning new drills and mechanics."

Tradition

Payton heard about Ryan Pritchard the year before coming on the staff as an assistant coach

for Novi. He said plenty was made about how good Pritchard was and the numbers he was putting up. "I remember seeing him throw at the regionals. He threw 165-170 feet," Payton said. "Traditionally, Novi throwers have been awesome."

Mouch puts his name up there with some of the best to ever throw at Novi, and will look to continue to rise up the charts.

"I was happy that during his senior year he was able to put up a number like that," Payton said. "It's a good thing to be proud of."

Leadership

Mouch is a senior captain for the Wildcats, a mold that Payton said he fits perfectly. "They listen to everything he

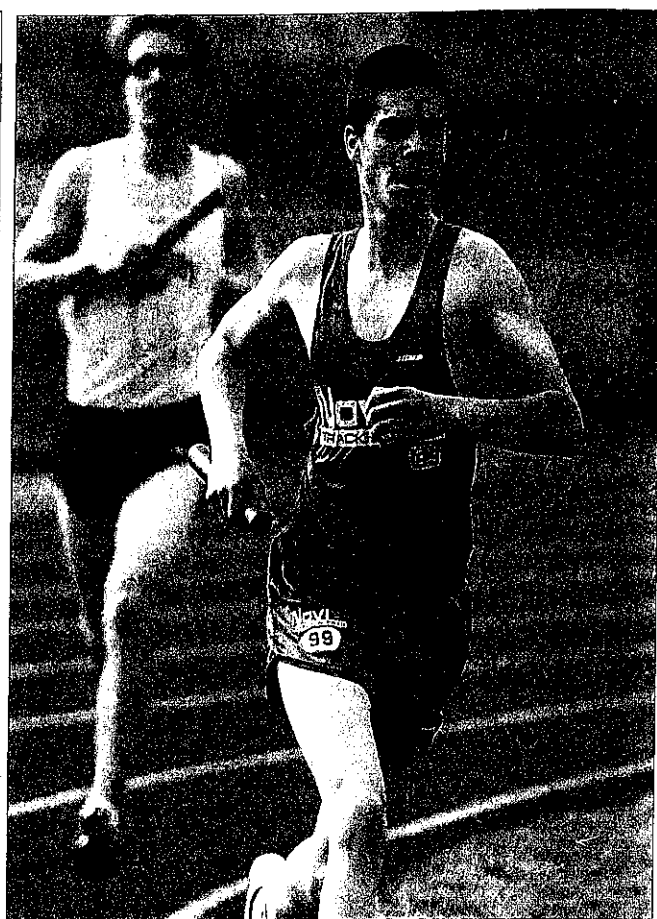
has to say. He's a definite leader," Payton said. "He's a fun guy. He's serious when he needs to be, but if he doesn't need to be serious, he likes to goof around. He's good to have on the team."

Payton tries to be at as many events as possible, but with 17 events going on, several simultaneously, captains have to help share the responsibilities. Payton said Mouch fits the roll perfectly during meets and at practices.

"I see him at the shot and discus ring showing kids what to do," Payton said. "That's super important for the young kids."

"It's comforting knowing you got someone like Mouch there helping the kids out."

Jeff Theisen can be reached at jtheisen@gannett.com.



A Novi Wildcat track team member competes in a relay race during a meet at home.

ROUNDUP: Tennis starts KVC with 9-0 victory

continued from front

Maxfield cleared 10-5 in the pole vault for first place.

Second-place finishes came from Mike Blazeczyk in the two mile, Dan Egner in the 800, Henry He in the vault and Brett Kuhn in the long jump.

Soccer

Novi soccer (5-1, 2-0) dispatched Lakeland 4-0 April 8 before suffering the first loss of the year. The Wildcats rebounded Monday to beat Lahser 2-0.

Nikki Greenhalgh scored three minutes in, and the Wildcats (4-0) never looked back. Elken Bronza scored two minutes later for a 2-0 lead.

Mary Reid and Jenna Carosio scored the final two goals. Goalkeepers Erin Zerio (first half) and Gabby Gaumder (second half) combined for the shutout.

The Wildcats lost a weather-shortened game 1-0 to Grrosse Pointe North on Friday. The game was called at halftime because of lightning.

Novi actually led in shots, 5-3, but a converted corner kick by North halfway through the first half stood as the only goal.

Against Lahser, the teams went scoreless into halftime, but Novi

played what head coach Brian O'Leary said was the best 20 minutes of the year so far for his team.

Ten minutes into the half, Reid took a through ball into the left corner and then beat the Lahser center defender who came over to help. Mary then crossed a ball into the box to a charging Nikki Greenhalgh who calmly settled the ball and tumbled into the net, far post.

Six minutes later, the Wildcats scored a similar goal when Carosio took a pass, beat two defenders and sent a cross into the box where Reid knocked in a one-timer.

"Our defense did a great job of staying organized" against Lahser's direct style of play," O'Leary said. "The defense was led by Taylor Pyden, Rachel Barndt, Megan Burns and Kaie Barry."

Erin Zerio made three saves for the shutout.

Lacrosse

Novi ripped rival Northville 16-4 April 10. Craig Howell pumped in five goals and dished out an assist to lead the offense.

George Riegel was next with four goals, and Paul Favorite tallied three goals. Nathan Hayes, Sean Murphy, Alex Willer and Tom Machisak each scored a goal.

Tennis

The Wildcats swept Milford 9-0 to open the KVC season. Amanda Border won 6-1, 6-0 at Novi; singles, Jackie Wang won 6-1, 6-2 at No. 2 singles; Sara Carlson won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 3 singles and Teodora Gavric won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 4 singles.

In doubles play, Lauren McCloskey and Megan Wenzl won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1; Amy Chiang and Lauren Felcher won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2; Jenna Snyder and Julia Thomas won 6-1, 6-0 at No. 3; Andrea Lolito and Kelli Walton won 6-0, 6-1 at No. 4 and Claudia Mirelci and Meggie Riegel won 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 at No. 5.

"It was a good way to start the KVC season,"

Softball

The Wildcats (1-3) picked up their first win Monday, winning the first game of a doubleheader against Pinckney. Novi won 9-7 before falling 10-0 in the second game.

Lauren Shelar and Maddy Sinkowich led the offense with three hits each. Meghan Robinson provided two hits to the cause.

Novi fell 10-0 in five innings to Milford on April 9. The Mavericks improved to 3-0.

Baseball

The Wildcats (1-3) picked up their first win Monday, winning the first game of a doubleheader against Pinckney. Novi won 9-7 before falling 10-0 in the second game.

Lauren Shelar and Maddy Sinkowich led the offense with three hits each. Meghan Robinson provided two hits to the cause.

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"It was a good way to start the KVC season,"

On the move

Boston Marathon brings out Novi runners

The third Monday in April is Patriots' Day in Massachusetts and that means it is time for the Boston Marathon. This year's event will take place on April 21st. It will be the 112th running of the historic race (the world's oldest annual marathon). 25,000 runners will participate - the second largest Boston Marathon in history.

Many consider Boston as "the marathon". Being the only marathon one must qualify for (by running a certified marathon under an age-based time), it has special significance. The 26.2 mile event goes from rural Hopkinton, through several small villages and towns, and finishes in Boston. Along the way, runners are encouraged by 500,000 cheering spectators. Whether a runner, volunteer, spectator or worker, this is a festive and fun time.

Novi Runners

Nine Novi residents are registered for this year's Boston Marathon: Kristin Edhols (26), Kathy Johnston (47), Lynn Meisel (45), Nancy Schubring (47), Yongmin Sheng (45), Brian Sparks (47), Michael Vincent (47), Stanley Wojcickowski (40), and Tracy Wolschlagler (39).

Nancy Schubring will be running her fourth Boston this year. She qualified the first time at her initial marathon.

She feels Boston is the #1 marathon in people's minds due to its prestige and qualifying requirement. A common question is: "Have you run Boston?" She will be running with her training partner, Tracy Wolschlagler, who will be doing her first Boston.

Brian Sparks will be running his fourth Boston Marathon and hopes to continue doing it as long as he can. He considers Boston special due to its history, mystique, being the oldest marathon, the spectators, and the need to qualify. He started running marathons five years ago and qualified for Boston at his second one.

Boston Marathon Trivia

With its rich and long history, there are many interesting facts about the Boston Marathon. Here are a few:

It is the second largest single day sporting event in terms of media coverage. Only the Super Bowl has more.

The first "Boston" was run on April 19, 1897. It was called American Marathon and had 15 participants.

Women were not allowed to officially run Boston until 1972 when eight women started.

The last time a runner from the United States won the men's race was 1983 (1985 for women). Kenyans have won 15 of the last 17 events.

The 100th running of Boston in 1996 had a record number of entrants - 38,708.

If you would like more information, check out www.boston-marathon.org. The race will be broadcast live on the VERSUS cable TV channel from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 21.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, April 30: The Run Fit 5K and Fit Kid's Run in Novi is an evening event sponsored by Running Fit. Start times are: 6:30 p.m. Kid's Run, 6:40 p.m. Mile, and 7:05 p.m. 5K. (www.runfit5k.com)

Saturday, May 10: The River Bank 25K Run in Grand Rapids offers a scenic course and challenging distance. Events include 5K run/walk and 10K run. (www.53riverbankrun.com)

Northville resident Jerry Mittman is an avid runner and has completed over 600 races, including 59 marathons. He can be contacted at jim997@hotmail.com.

Shamrock slingers



Matt Aubrey carries the ball upfield.



Brad Higgins looks for space.



Brad Janer works the ball upfield against Northville.

CC ROUNDUP: Golf opens season with victory

continued from front

Baseball

The Shamrock baseball team beat Orchard Lake St. Mary's 12-2 in five innings Monday.

Brett Gossett earned the win, allowing six hits and one earned run with five strikeouts.

Jake Hanson led the offense with three hits and two RBIs.

John Ruse, Keenan Hart and Mike McCann batted out two hits each.

The second game was suspended because of darkness with CC leading 6-3.

The Catholic Central track team came up short in a 73-55 loss to Brother Rice on Monday.

Brother Rice pulled away from a tight race by winning the final five events.

Shamrock wins came from Mike Martin in the shot put (58-

2.5) and discus (141-0), Mel Farr in the 100 meters (11.5), Harrison Hall in the 400 meters (51.9), the 4x800 relay and the 4x200 relay.

Steve LaRocca led the Shamrocks with a 38 at the Orchards. Next were Mike Panek (39) and Austin Sophia (41).

Golf

The CC golf team started the season with a 157-162 victory against DeLaSalle.

Steve LaRocca led the Shamrocks with a 38 at the Orchards. Next were Mike Panek (39) and Austin Sophia (41).



Dan MacDonnell looks to pass in front of the Shamrock bench.



Submitted photo

Senior A Champs

The Little Caesar's Women Senior A Hockey Team of Detroit won the 2008 USA Hockey Women's National Championship on March 30 in West Chester, Pa., against the Needham, Mass., Huskies 5-3. Little Caesars had to win four games against teams from around the country leading up to the final round. Members of the team include: Kristy Reinhardt (Royal Oak), Manon Rheaume (Northville), Sarah Clark (Novi), Tina Ciruolo (St. Clair Shores), Rosie Cardillo (Ferndale), Meghann Schlaff (Windsor), Amy Shepler (Royal Oak), Joanie Denby (Sterling Heights), Lindsey Akers (Lincoln Park), Alanna Pfeiffer (Royal Oak), Brooke Sharrard (St. Clair Shores), Anna VanderMarliere (St. Clair Shores), Kristi Thome, Amber Majorana and Tara Bolland.



Submitted photo

Champs

During the weekend of March 14-15th, the WAZA FC PASL Team won the PASL International Championship in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Premier Arena Soccer League (PASL) is the largest semi-pro indoor/arena soccer league in the country. It has approximately 55 teams spread across 10 divisions. WAZA FC participates in the Great Lakes Division, which consists of FC Indiana (Lafayette, IN), Cleveland Pride (Cleveland, OH), Quantum FC (Hurricane, WV) and WAZA FC (based out of Total Soccer Novi). WAZA FC won the Great Lakes Division for the second straight year, which earned them a birth into the PASL International Tournament. Front Row: Valentino Scicluna (Livonia), Mario Scicluna (Redford), Ryan Mathe (Ypsilanti), Tournament MVP Anthony Santilli (Windsor, CA), Ryan Mallard (Dearborn), LaMarr Peters (Ithaca, NY). Back Row: Kevin Milliken (PASL Commissioner), Zoren Ljubovic (Novi), Adam Nesbitt (Brighton), Dan Trosper (Redford), Tom Stark (Brighton), Aaron Byrd (Ferndale), Mustapha Olourunmbi (Oak Park), Tom Eiler (Livonia), Coach John P. Roumayah (Farmington Hills). Not Pictured: Matt Lividini (Woodhaven)

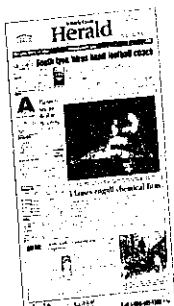
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Weather or Not

Brien's Services, Inc. is ready for spring

By Sally Rummel
SPECIAL WRITER

Nobody watches the weather like Brien Worrell.

As the owner of Brien's Services, Inc. in Milford, Worrell has to know the weather forecast so he can best be prepared to dispatch his staff and fleet when and where needed.

He takes his weather tracking seriously, documenting past trends, forecasting the future and keeping meticulous records along the way — all in an effort to efficiently control the work flow of his 70-plus member staff.

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That's because during these "fickle" early spring months, Brien's Services, Inc. makes another transformation from its wintertime snow removal business to its outdoor-loving landscape business.

This 27-year old business has literally made a name for itself with its creative and meticulous seasonal care of lawns and flowers.

"This is what we do from April through November," says Worrell, as he sends his crews out for early-season landscaping design jobs and estimates.

"In the winter, we change our emphasis from 'green' to 'white,' maintaining roads, parking lots and driveways after ice accumulation and snowfalls," explains Worrell. "I'm pretty sure we're done with that for the season."

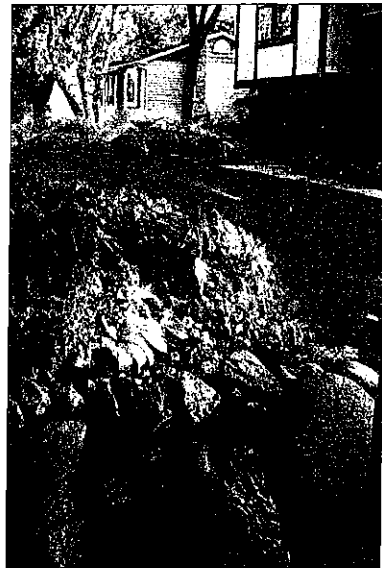
Brien Worrell has been "counting down the days" 'til his own official start of spring — that is, when he feels he can comfortably put away his snowplow equipment for the season.

As of the date of this publication, he's pretty sure that "spring has sprung," keeping in mind that late storms do happen and it's best to be prepared.

"I have to know when to have our people 'on call' and when to prepare our trucks for a big storm," says Worrell, from his offices at 815 Union, one mile east of Pontiac Trail.

He's proud that his business' reputation as a community supporter extends during times of bad weather, assisting municipalities and homeowners when his expertise and equipment could be helpful.

"We've been more than happy to help out the township and fire department during weather emergencies," says Worrell.



Submitted Photos

From April through November, Brien Worrell and his staff focus on spring clean-ups, creative landscaping and irrigation design, professional bed maintenance and everything else that goes into making your landscape look good.

"I want your property to look its very best."

— Brien Worrell,
Brien's Services Inc.

He's also glad to serve on the Milford Township Board and the Village Parks & Recreation Committee.

"I'm passionate about national observances like Earth Day and Arbor Day, too, that help educate people and promote environmental issues," says Worrell, the father of six-year-old twins Jarrett and Tenley, along with wife Fanny.

LANDSCAPING

With spring and summer now on the

way, the lawn professionals at Brien's Services, Inc. have turned their thoughts to creative landscaping design, irrigation design, professional bed maintenance, spring clean-up, etc.

It's the time of year that's the most exciting, as homeowners, businesses and municipalities plan their outdoor landscape.

"I want your property to look its very best!" exclaims Worrell, whose professional staff strives for perfection in all its outdoor work.

The thoroughly trained landscape technicians identify what it takes to give a client a healthy, beautiful landscape, then ensures its beauty with a maintenance plan that takes all of the work out of the "great outdoors."

By using high-end equipment and the best landscape products available in the marketplace, Brien's Services, Inc. is able to ensure the beauty of each client's "green" project.



Brien's trained landscape technicians identify what it takes to give a client a healthy, beautiful landscape, then ensures its beauty with a maintenance plan.

BRIEN'S SERVICES, INC.

815 Union
Milford

Phone
(248) 685-7276

Web site
www.briensservices.com

HOLIDAY DECORATING

Even in the midst of winter, Brien's Services, Inc. provides holiday decorating assistance that can transform one's home or business into a holiday winter wonderland.

"This is just one more way we can add to the outdoor beauty of your home," says Worrell. "One call and we can do it all."

Whether he's caring for lawns or plowing snow, Brien Worrell can provide prospective clients with more information at (248) 685-7276, or by visiting their Web site at www.briensservices.com

Four seasons of outdoor beauty from Brien's Services, Inc.

Spring
landscape design planning, yard clean-up, planting bulbs

Summer
yard maintenance, irrigation systems, pond development

Fall
planting bulbs, fall clean-up, pruning

Winter/holiday
outdoor holiday decor, snow removal, salting

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