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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Tiptoe Through the Tulips!

A group of Deerfield Elementary students gathers around a bunch of flowering tulips. The flowers' bulbs were planted in the school's courtyard last fall and popped up in the last few weeks. More will be added later as the squirrels ate some of the bulbs this past winter. From left: Emmi Casalou, Ben Howarth, Alex Gamm, Jackson Peurach, Loren Talaga, Ashley Tesoreo and Samantha Kasanic.

Taxpayers enticed by stimulating spending offers



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Kroger employee Rob Rolly displays incentives the store is offering customers to spend their incentive checks.

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

Adrienne Pass of Novi is using her newfound economic stimulus windfall to pay off a portion of her Ford Focus auto loan debt.

"We hafta have a cool car to cover with Ron Paul swag, after all!" she blogged on the Web site www.howispentynstimuluscheck.com.

But while some residents are opting for the conservative route, others are ready to spend. And local stores are prepared to cash in.

Many businesses are offering tax payers incentives to make the most of the money they will receive as the Internal Revenue Service begins sending out economic stimulus checks this week. "We thought Uncle Sam had started a great plan to stimulate the economy, and we thought we could contribute and make it more valuable to our customers," said Dale Hollandsworth, spokesman for Michigan Kroger stores.

From May 2-July 31 all Kroger stores nationwide are giving customers a 10 percent bonus when they purchase gift cards in \$300, \$600 and \$1,200 increments.

"They do like that we're giving them free money, every bit helps," said Jennifer Robinson, co-manager of the Kroger store at Grand River Avenue and Beek Road.

All customers are eligible to purchase a gift card and receive the additional \$30, \$60 or \$120 even if they aren't one of the 130 million households to receive the rebate.

"Technically, they don't have to use money from the check, it's just timed with the tax stimulus bonuses to try to help things along," Hollandsworth said. "It's a great way to say to our regular customers, 'Thank you, we know what you're going through.'"

Other Novi stores including Sears and ABC Warehouse are advertising similar incentive programs.

Sears, like Kroger, is offering 10 percent when shoppers use their stimulus checks to purchase a gift card.

The gift card may also be used at Kmart and Lands' End.

Other stores such as Best Buy, Staples and the Apple Store said they do not have economic stimulus promotions in place.

In an effort to help strengthen the economy, the government is giving eligible individuals who filed a 2007 federal tax return between \$300-\$600; those who filed a joint return will receive a total of \$600-\$1,200; and those who have children will get an additional \$300 for each qualifying child.

"It was the right thing to do, the economy needs help," Hollandsworth said. "Michigan could use a shot in the arm."

According to the IRS, beginning May 2, the government began electronically transmitting stimulus payments into some taxpayers' accounts, those who opted to have the money direct deposited.

For those expecting a check in the mail, the IRS will begin sending them out tomorrow.

To find out eligibility, a tentative payment schedule or for more information, visit www.irs.gov.

Making Caitlin's dreams come true

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

Caitlin Fokken was excited to begin kindergarten last fall at Parkview Elementary School, but a rare occurrence last spring suddenly halted her plan.

Fokken, 6, suffered four strokes in May 2007 after receiving a chicken pox vaccination.

As a result of the strokes and complications, she was not able to use her right arm or leg, and could not speak or swallow.

Eligible for a wish through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Fokken requested to swim with dolphins.

When 11 fourth-grade students from Parkview and Deerfield elementary schools learned of her dream they banded together for eight weeks to help make Fokken's wish come true.

"We wanted to learn to be leaders and wanted to help my friend's sister," said 10-year-old Deerfield student Morgan Krupic, one of the 11 TeamKAL members.

TeamKAL, which stands for Team Kids Action Learning, is a first-time spin-off of a leadership program for business executives

conducted by Novi-based PARAGON Leadership International.

"TeamKAL is an offering we offer to executives and corporations. We thought this was something we could bring to the younger levels," said Janice Krupic, PARAGON's owner and Morgan's mom. "They learned a lot about leadership. We talked about creating a vision."

The fundraising efforts earned more than \$5,500 for Fokken, a process that collected several donations from schools, businesses and individuals.

The main event planned by the TeamKAL members was a screening of "Nim's Island" April 26 at Emagine Theater in Novi.

"This has been incredibly supported by the district," Janice said. "This is something that started really small and has grown throughout Novi. The community has really pulled together."

TeamKAL consists of Sydney Cantin, Lauren Fokken (Caitlin's



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Parkview Elementary student-to-be Caitlin Fokken smiles as she sits on her mother Trish's lap during a Make-A-Wish Foundation presentation last Wednesday. Parkview and Deerfield students teamed up and helped to raise money and understanding for Caitlin.

Please see CAITLIN 3A

Hometownlife.com has new look and a new mission



Hometownlife.com

Our Web site - www.hometownlife.com - has a new look. But the real change is in the approach.

While we've redesigned the site, we've also expanded the mission. Our goal is to connect with readers who will contribute to hometownlife.com.

The navigation bar at the top of the page guides readers to most places on the site. Hometownlife.com is powered by the staffs of the Observer &

Eccentric, Mirror and Hometown Weeklies and you.

With the new features we've introduced, readers will have the ability to:

- See how readers are reacting to stories.
- Recommend stories and comments to other readers.
- Comment directly on stories.
- Create a blog.
- Participate in discussion forums.
- Write reviews (movies, music

and more).

- Contribute photos.
- Better communicate with staff members.

We've made other improvements. We've cleaned up the layout, simplified the navigation, and made hometownlife.com more interactive and we hope more fun. But the best part of hometownlife.com is you.

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just about everything.

When we say hometownlife.com is a community site, we mean it. It's a site open to all.

We hope you enjoy the new hometownlife.com.

We're not done with improvements. They will continue. Tell us what you think.

We welcome your comments at srosiek@hometownlife.com or join the discussion group on the new site online at www.hometownlife.com.

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VOLUME 52 #51



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MY NOVI COMMUNITY

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Educational summer programs seek motivated kids

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

With just a few weeks until the semester ends, Novi students and parents have a few options to keep the educational flow going after school lets out for the summer.

The Jeanine Clark Summer Teen Center has been around for a quarter of a century, offering sixth-through-ninth graders the chance to hang out in a safe place and go on field trips together.

The Teen Center, which Novi Youth Assistance runs from 5:30 p.m. June 23-July 31, will hold registration at the Novi Civic Center 9 a.m.-noon Saturday.

Chauda Walter, a NYA case worker, said the program had 90-100 kids registered last year and expects an increase this year.

"I think we re-evaluated some of the activities and games the kids like. We honed and progressed with the kids' interest. Every week it's a combination of educational activities and speakers," she said.

The kids will also receive their share of fun, as the camp is held at Novi High School's cafeteria, allowing students to use the gym and pool. They will also have the opportunity to play games, ping pong, air hockey, watch PG and PG-13 movies, among other activities. Field trips will include jaunts to Waterford Oaks, the Holocaust Center, Zap Zone, Cedar Pointe, a Detroit Tigers game and helping at Providence Park and Whitehall Convalescence Home.

"We are trying a couple new things this year. What's new: Everything is added to or the same as last year," Walter said.

Teen Center registration costs \$80 and will make the five-week camp an option for the children to attend any and all days throughout late June and July. Campers are not required to attend each day or field trip.

Colton Gow, a 13-year-old seventh grader at Novi Middle School, did attend every day of camp last summer because he had so much fun. He plans to return for his third consecutive summer next month and wants to attend every year until he's too old.

"I went there in fifth grade and it was really fun. It's still fun every



Novi Summer Camps

The Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has added 24 new summer camps to its 2008 lineup. Registration is now open for all 32 summer programs.

Receive a \$6 discount for registering online at www.cityofnovi.org.

The Novi Parks office is located inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road, (248) 347-0400.

Source: City of Novi

time. I just like how it is." Gow said. "My favorite part is the Teen Center lock-in. You stay there all night. There's a lot of tournaments and you order pizza at midnight."

The camp will be run daily by seven sensitivity- and CPR-trained teachers and college students. Walter said about 40-50 kids attend the camp each day.

New experiences

Novi Middle School will host the district's first Camp Invention program June 23-27.

The \$230 camp for first-through-sixth grade students runs similar to a high school classroom with a rotating course schedule.

The four-long lessons teach students about science, teamwork, creativity and innovative thinking skills. Students will learn about the physics and engineering behind building a roller coaster, improving transportation and working together to solve several real-world situations.

Middle School teacher Seth Furlow, who has worked at different nearby camps for five years, was happy to bring the program to Novi as its new director. The program first came to Michigan in Walled Lake and expanded to Northville, Dearborn, Clareville and other districts.

"Novi has a great reputation for math and science and we wanted to tap into these interests with as many students as we could as early as possible. More than anything

else though we want each of the participants to have fun and hopefully come back next year," Furlow said. "It is a great experience that really lets the students' imagination run wild. They really see what the invention process is all about."

He said, typically, the programs have volunteers from Ford who work with intellectual property come in to help with the invention process and explain how it works in real life.

The deadline to register for the Novi camp is May 31. There is a 110-student limit and Furlow said 97 had registered by May 9.

Call (800) 968-4332 for more information or to register.

"I came to Novi in 2004 and tried immediately to get either a camp or club after school version of camp invention program going. It is still the single best educational experience I have been a part of for young students interested in math and science. I've always felt a Novi camp would be really successful," Furlow said. "There will only be one session here at Novi Middle School, but there are other camps all over Michigan that take place throughout the whole summer."

Seven certified teachers, 10 high school and college student-counselors, and a handful of junior counselors will run the camps daily.

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



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi Middle School student Colton Gow hung out last summer at the Novi Youth Assistance's Summer Teen Center at the high school. He plans on attending again.

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Dunkin' Donuts restaurants offer free iced coffee today

Dunkin' Donuts wants to celebrate the customers who keep Michigan running as part of its nationwide Free Iced Coffee Day Promotion. On Thursday, May 15, Dunkin' Donuts restaurants will participate in Dunkin' Donuts' second annual Free Iced Coffee Day.

From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on May 15, customers can visit any participating Dunkin' Donuts restaurant in Michigan and receive a free small 16 oz. cup of Dunkin' Donuts' original or flavored iced coffee.

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News
Holding up the letters "TEAM," Parkview and Deerfield Elementary School students team up to show what they've learned to help Parkview student-to-be Caitlin Fokken.

CAITLIN
continued from front

(Leadership) is about making a positive difference and encouraging others (to do the same)," Susan Lerch, chief executive officer and "fairy god mother" of Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan, told the gymnasium full of Deerfield students.

Caitlin, who, for the past year, has spent five days a week in therapy working to regain the abilities damaged by the stroke, was able to walk up the two steps to the stage with only the aid of an ankle brace and her mother's hand. She uttered a single sentence to the TeamKAL members and Deerfield audience.

"Thank you for working so hard," she said.

TeamKAL members wrapped up the assembly by handing out about two dozen pink, streamer-laced awards to students in the audience. The awards represent good deeds with the idea they pass the word on to a schoolmate when they witness a good deed.

The students hope to pass the awards on to many students throughout the remainder of the school year.

"Thank you for working so hard."
Caitlin Fokken
Six-year-old stroke victim

Interested in participating in a Memorial Day Parade?

Show your community spirit and appreciation for local vets. Join Novi's annual Memorial Day Parade as a participant or spectator.

All veterans, bands, scouts, kids, businesses and other civic organizations are invited to be a part of the event.

Form a group or create a float to march proudly through Novi, showcasing community pride.

The parade will begin at 10 Mile Road and Karim Boulevard, and travel west along 10 Mile to the Novi Civic Center.

At the conclusion of the parade, there will be a ceremonial presentation honoring local veterans.

All entry forms for parade participants must be returned to the Novi Parks Department by May 21.

For more information or entry forms, visit www.cityofnovi.org.

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Not without a fight

Fuerst Farm Family Days Sunday

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

If the Fuerst Farmstead facilities go down, it won't be without a fight.

Local community members have rallied together to form an official organization dedicated to saving the Fuerst Farm.

Friends of the Fuerst Farm is in the process of registering with the state of Michigan as a non-profit organization and is undergoing the application process to receive tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

"We have four guiding principles," said Sherrie Konkus, secretary of the recently formed organization.

• To preserve the historic Fuerst Farmstead.
• To develop a preservation plan for the Fuerst Farmstead as a historical park.
• To support efforts to preserve historical resources in Novi.
• To raise funds to implement preservation efforts.

"This is a key historical site we have in the city," Konkus said. "I think we need to have the city reconsider their decision."

On April 7, Novi's City Council approved, by a 5-2 vote, a plan for the city-owned property that includes demolition of the existing buildings on the site, unless a group or individual can come up with the funding to restore the buildings in 90 days.

"Currently, raising money is difficult, because we, as a group, do not own that property," Konkus said. "It's really an outreach effort. I'm hoping to work with council and be a point of communication with them."

Along with Konkus, the other officers of the newly formed organization include President Kathy Mutch, Vice President Roy Prentice and Treasurer Steve Babinchak.

Konkus, who is a Novi resident of more than 20 years, serves on the Housing and Community Development Committee and has participated in various volunteer efforts throughout the city before getting involved with Friends of the Fuerst Farm.

Fuerst Farm Family Day

Sunday, May 18 • 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Held at the Fuerst Farmstead, located at the corner of Tat and 10 Mile roads.

The free event will include live music, farm animals, wagon rides, quilting, crafts, face painting, ice cream and lemonade.

Special appearances by Farmer John Beemer and Farm Lady Margaret Schmidt.

For more information regarding the annual family event contact Historical Commission chair Kathy Mutch at (248) 224-4211.

Donations are accepted.



"I consider myself more of an environmental activist," she said. "I have a master's in social justice, so I find myself getting involved in the things I think would benefit the community."

"I want to be involved with it from a positive perspective and work with the city to find a common ground."

Konkus is also serving as chair of the networking and volunteer coordination committee.

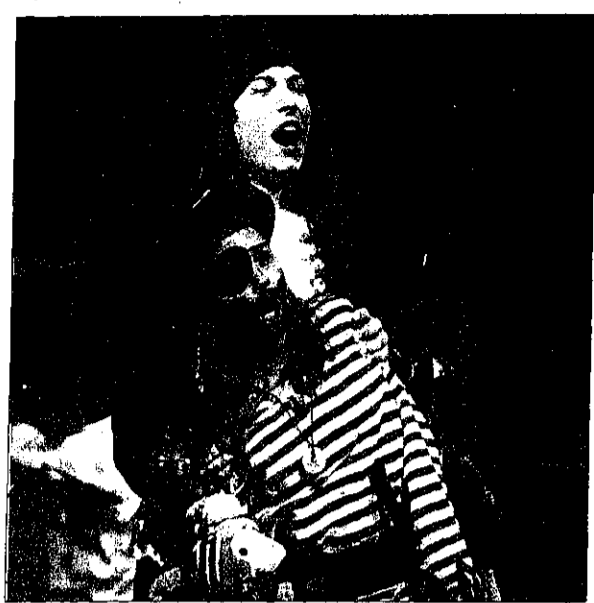
With limited time to come up with a plan to save the Fuerst Farm, the organization is holding weekly meetings and has formed various committees including a

petition and ballot initiative committee.

The petition ultimately supports preservation of the buildings and asks council to consider an alternative plan for the property that would be presented by Friends of the Fuerst Farm.

For more information regarding Friends of the Fuerst Farm, visit www.fuerstfarm.org or contact Kathy Mutch at (248) 224-4211.

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



Final weekend for Kokonut Kapers

The ghost of Captain Kidd (Sean Hagenian McDonald) appears to island resident and pirate wannabe, Swampy (Julia Colasanti). Tickets for Kokonut Kapers are available online at www.cityofnovi.org and at the Novi Parks office in the Novi Civic Center. For more information, please call (248) 347-0400.

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MY BUSINESS

Thursday, May 15, 2008
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ITC hosts grand opening celebration of new headquarters

ITC Holdings Corp., the largest independent electricity transmission company in the country, hosted a grand opening event Monday to celebrate its new office headquarters in Novi.

"This building represents a culmination of much hard work and dedication," said Joseph Welch, president and CEO of ITC. "Dedication to being the premier electric transmission system company. Dedication to serving customers efficiently and reliably. Dedication to providing open and equal access to the grid for all generators. Dedication to integrating renewables into the grid efficiently and the dedication of our employees to make this vision a reality."

"ITC has grown from 38 employees in March 2003 to more than 320 employees in 2008, and I would like to thank all our employees and contractors who helped make ITC what it is today."

The brand new 188,000-square-foot facility sits on 85 acres of land. The new building is environmentally-friendly and includes "green" aspects such as:

- Floor-to-ceiling windows to maximize use of daylight.
- Highly reflective fluorescent and computer fluorescent lighting.
- High-efficiency dual-fuel boiler system that provides heat during winter months.
- Dry cooler that allows for use of outside cold air when A/C is needed to cool down computer server rooms on cold days, and
- Recycling bins on each floor.

The event was emceed by Paul W. Smith of WJR-AM (News/Talk 760) and featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony and speakers including Welch; City of Novi Mayor David Landry; State Sen. Nancy Cassis; State Rep. Craig DeRoche; Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson; Commissioner Monica Martinez of the Michigan Public Service Commission; Commissioner Phillip D. Maeder of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Richard Mata, vice president, Local 223; State Sen. Bruce Patterson; and James Epolito, president and CEO, Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

During the grand opening, ITC announced five students from the College for Creative Studies who

won \$5,000 scholarships.

The five selected original pieces of art were prominently displayed during the grand opening celebration and will be displayed at ITC's new headquarters moving forward.

ITC Holdings Corp. (NYSE: ITC) invests in the electricity transmission grid to improve electric reliability, improve access to markets and lower the overall cost of delivered energy.

It is the largest independent electricity transmission company in the country.

Through its subsidiaries, ITC Transmission, Michigan Electric Transmission Company, LLC and ITC Midwest LLC, ITC operates regulated, high-voltage transmission systems in Michigan's Lower Peninsula and portions of Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri, serving a combined peak load in excess of 25,000 megawatts.

ITC is also focused on new areas where significant transmission system improvements are needed through subsidiaries ITC Grid Development, ITC Great Plains and ITC Panhandle Transmission.



Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, center, and Novi Mayor David Landry, right, were in attendance at last Monday's grand opening of Novi's ITC headquarters.



Joseph L. Welch, president and CEO, speaks at the grand opening of ITC's new Novi headquarters at 12 Mile Road. Guests included the nation's Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Phillip D. Moeller, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Novi Mayor David Landry.



ITC's new Novi campus and its six-story building, which can be easily seen from the Michigan 5.

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GEMOLOGIST

MAKING THE CUT

Cutting a diamond properly is essential for releasing its "fire" (interior flaring of spectral colors) and "brilliance" (sparkle). To this end diamond cutters constantly search for the "perfect" cut. While there are a number of formulas that experts use, each directly to this ideal, generally speaking, diamonds cut with smaller facets the top facets exhibit more fire. However, those with larger tables exhibit more brilliance. As you might expect, you cannot have both qualities in the extreme at the same time. It is a matter of compromise. This is where mathematical formulas are introduced into the cutting equation. There are several different types of proportions to be found, with the "ideal" being largely a matter of personal preference.

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MY PUBLIC SAFETY

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Thursday, May 15, 2008
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Novi hosts first Office Safety Seminar

By Kelly Murad
STAFF WRITER

About 45 local business people gathered together at the Novi Civic Center last Thursday for the City of Novi's first Office Safety Seminar.

The seminar, which was presented by Detective Kristine Gruenwald of the Novi Police Department, included topics such as crime prevention, violence in the workplace, evacuation procedures and emergency preparedness.

"You work in a beautiful community, but educating people up front can do a lot for us in preventing crimes from occurring," said Novi Deputy Police Chief Thomas Lindberg.

The overall seminar was intended to provide local employers with the information necessary to handle situations in the workplace.

"If the employer knows what's going on, they can be better equipped for a potential problem," Gruenwald said. "Sometimes, when we go to work, we become complacent because it's such a safe, routine part of our life. But trust that gut feeling or intuition, it's usually pretty accurate."

Gruenwald discussed real-life scenarios of violence and crime in the work place, such as the Anthony LaCantina III shooting in Troy, April 2007 and Jason Arthur Smith, the suspect

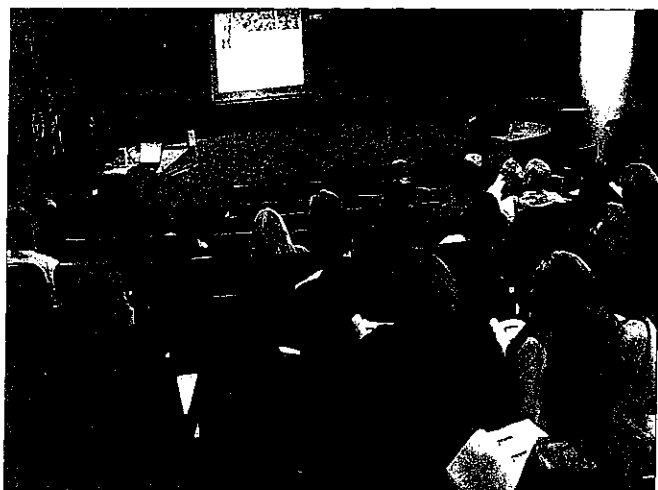


Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Members of the business community attend a lecture on office safety. The seminar was run by the Novi Police Department.

wanted for breaking into local businesses and stealing laptop computers.

"I feel they are being very proactive," said Eloisa Miranda, human resources manager for Toyota Boshoku, one of the local businesses who fell victim to Smith's crimes. "We've gone proactive, maybe we would have

been more aware."

In December, the Japanese company had six laptop computers stolen from its West Park Drive offices.

"We've had an incident of theft in our building," said Kenneth Sharp, prototype supervisor for Toyota Boshoku. "We've gone through a lot of implementing

many of the security measures Gruenwald suggested and dis-

since then, it's been a huge learning curve.

"I've worked for the City of Troy, Madison Heights, Fenton... The City of Novi is the first I've seen where they've sent out (crime) bulletins to let us know what's going on."

Paintball guns suspected stolen from vehicle

An employee of Life Time Fitness, on High Point Boulevard, suspects between April 29 and 11 p.m. May 2, an unknown person stole three paintball guns, three 20-ounce carbon dioxide tanks, a Craftsman Mechanics socket set and a flashlight for a paintball gun from the bed of his truck, reports said.

According to the victim, between the two dates he was only at work or at his residence, but does not believe the theft

POLICE BRIEF

occurred at home because he parks the vehicle in the garage.

He noticed the items missing from the Chevrolet Silverado May 2, but there was no damage done to the truck.

In total, the victim estimates the items are worth about \$1,300.

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Wheelchair Getaways brightens lives, provides service

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

When Kirk Rosey was first restricted to a wheelchair a few years ago, it was a struggle just to leave the house. His wheelchair had become the largest hurdle preventing travel.

When he couldn't move from his wheelchair to the passenger seat in his sister's vehicle, she couldn't find wheelchair-accessible transportation to get him to appointments.

"If someone has the desire to commit a crime, they're going to do it," Gruenwald said. "But we can take the opportunity away from them."

"Practicing will give you the survival mind-set. That's why we recommend you practice an evacuation route."

Gruenwald even suggested common sense safety tips such as not working late alone, keeping purses and wallets locked in desk drawers and locking car doors at all times.

Lt. Victor Lauria, of the Novi Police Department said 80 percent of larceny from automobile incidents occur to vehicles with unlocked doors.

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

Gayle said. "When I look back, when your family members become ill, sometimes you're at a loss for what you can do."

Gayle said she called several services before a car dealership recommended the Highland-based Wheelchair Getaways. As a nursing supervisor of the Anticoagulation Department at St. John Hospital in Detroit, Gayle deals with health care patients and their needs daily, but had never heard of the service.

"The ambulance costs are so expensive, so this was very reasonable. I could always go with him," she said. "It put some joy back into his life that he just would not have had. If it hadn't been for this van it would've been real hard. Kirk and I enjoyed so many things. They changed Kirk's life. I took him out to Kensington. I was able to take him out to movies and dinner. I took him to the Woodward Cruise. It was a joy because, otherwise, he'd just be bound at the nursing home."

High Platt started Wheelchair Getaways 16 years ago in Highland as the 13th franchise in a now-40-franchise program. Although based in Highland, Platt's business serves the entire state, as it is the only provider in Michigan.

"If someone needs one, we simply take one over there. We're similar to Hertz or Avis, except everything in our fleet is wheelchair accessible," he said. "There's people that travel for business, have relatives here or have their own vehicle that needs repairs. For any reason you might rent a car, those are the same reasons we rent to people in wheelchairs."

Wheelchair Getaways rents out 50 vans for as long as they're needed, whether it be one day or two months.

"Our fleet of 50 vans, we run in the mid-to-low 99 percentile all the time. Only two or three are not rented out on any given day," Platt said, noting that people have a better chance of securing a rental if they call weeks in advance.

"We've tried to keep it affordable. In 16 years, we've only raised rates \$15 and everything with gas prices, vehicle maintenance and everything has increased more."

New rental for one day is \$99 plus tax and gas, although the vehicle starts with a full tank. Cost per day rates are cheaper for longer rentals. The vans can be picked up in Highland or delivered.

A few variations of vans are available, some with ramps for wheelchairs and others with lifts. Some also make it possible for the person in a wheelchair to drive as long as they can move out of their chair and into the driver's seat.

"People don't care about this until they need it. When they do get injured, they do look for the product and the services," Platt said. "We're here and easy to work with."

Gayle Rosey said the service allowed her to take her brother to events like Northville's Fourth of July Parade and it was a great help when she had short notice of a need for a wheelchair-accessible van.

"The family was very understanding and made you feel very welcome. It was a great experience all the way around," Gayle said. "When Kirk died, they sent me a sympathy card and it was the little things like that that meant a lot."

Wheelchair Getaways
Contact Wheelchair Getaways at (800) 887-7868 or visit www.wheelchairgetaways.com for more information.

Submitted photo

Gayle Rosey stands lakeside with her brother, Kirk Rosey, a few years ago. He died in March.

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This event will be combined with our regular auctions of delinquent units at 10:00 a.m.

An Open Letter to the Parents of All Northville Public School Students

Subcontracting the Transportation, Food Service, and Custodial Services
Amounts to Selling Student Safety to the Lowest Bidder!

The Northville Public School system is currently studying proposals which would eliminate the schools' bus drivers, aides, custodians, and food service employees and replace them with outside, private contractors.

Employees in Michigan are prohibited from striking by law, guaranteeing that our drivers, food service employees, and custodians will continue to provide those vital services. However, when you transfer the work, not the liability, to a private entity, you are taking a protected activity and making it to workers who have the right to strike and withhold vital services.

Privatization comes with a lot of baggage:

1. Loss of direct control of the employees.
2. Loss of accountability by the Board.
3. The Board is ultimately accountable to the taxpayers and could be subject to considerable litigation.
4. Private vendors have almost no responsibility to you, the taxpayer, only to the bottom line, which is motivated by profit.

A document released through the Secretary of Transportation's office entitled "America's School Children at Risk" cites numerous violations of maintenance and inspection of private buses resulting in thousands of injuries and, in some cases, the death of students.

The Northville Schools bus drivers, aides, custodians, and food service employees are your friends and your neighbors. Their families attend the same churches that you attend, and their children attend the same schools as your children. We share a common interest and desire to guarantee the safety of our children.

Student safety should not be for sale - at ANY price!

Please attend the School Board meeting on May 19th at 7:00 p.m. and tell them your student's safety is

NOT FOR SALE!

Teamsters Local 214
Representing Northville Public Schools Transportation Department, Custodians, and Food Service Employees.

Save 30-50% off Your Utility Bills this Summer!

Do you dread paying your utility bills? Tired of watching your money go out the door... or, actually, up the flue? Take action now and keep some of that hard earned money right where you need it - safe at home!

Your furnace and air conditioning may be costing you hundreds of dollars. Especially, if your system is more than 8 years old. How? Well, it's simple. Furnace and air conditioner efficiency has increased tremendously over the last few years. And, that means your present heating and cooling costs may be excessive (you probably already know that from looking at your utility bills)!

Here's what you should consider. Replacing your furnace and air conditioner with newer high-efficiency units can save you big bucks. Potentially, as high as **50% of your current utility costs.** And the benefits don't stop with just the cost savings. With newer technology and proper sizing, you'll notice greater comfort during both the heating and cooling seasons.

So, how can you tell if a new system is right for you? Give us a call. We'll make an appointment

for a complete engineering analysis of your current heating and cooling system. **No obligation. No cost.** When we're done, you'll have all the information you need to make an informed decision about your heating and cooling costs.

I'm so confident you'll benefit from our visit, I am extending the **Ultimate Savings Guarantee** - if your furnace is more than 8 years old and we can't show you how your utility savings can actually pay for a new heating and cooling system - **DINNER IS ON ME!** That's right. If I can't prove how reducing your energy bills will pay for a new system, I'll give you a \$25 restaurant gift card. But this offer is limited! **We need to talk before June 15th** to take advantage of the Ultimate Savings Guarantee.

Why wait? It doesn't get much easier! Call 517-548-2114 today to schedule an appointment and start saving money today!

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ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH NOVI 4827 10 Mile Rd. Novi, MI 48240 Sunday 8:30 & 11:30 a.m. Reverend George Vapora, Pastor Phone: 248-349-1700	FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE 349-1144 8:15 a.m. Bible Study Sunday Worship Services 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m. Rev. Anne Harkness, Pastor www.umcnorthville.org
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HAIL TO THE CONQUERING HEROES.

Elaine Philipson, RN

A portrait of Elaine Philipson, RN, a nurse at the University of Michigan Health System. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and has a Master's degree in Nursing. She is currently working as a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at the University of Michigan Health System. She is also a member of the American Nurses Association and the Michigan Nurses Association.

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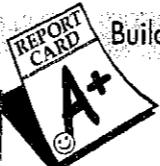
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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: 7 p.m. tonight inside the Educational Services Building on Taft Road

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MY EDUCATION



Thursday, May 15, 2008
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Journalism roars at Novi High School

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER

The Novi High School newspaper can report it's one of the best in the state after last month's Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Journalism awards conference at the Lansing Center. The Wildcat Roar captured 35 individual awards and the Spartan Award at the MIPA conference in Division 1, which is made up of 19 high schools with enrollment between 1,778 and 2,660.

"Their names were called more than any other Division 1 school. They had more first places (nine) than any other school. I think South Lyon was second with six first places. We had awards in writing, photo and design," said Lydia Cadena, Novi High School newspaper advisor and journalism teacher. "This is the most winning staff I've ever had. The editors made a conscious decision. I asked them at the beginning of the year if they wanted to have a good paper or a great paper. They said they wanted to have a great paper, and they did."

The 19 students earned 35 individual awards of the 56 or so entries sent in, but the Spartan Award displayed the group's true cohesiveness.

"Everyone has to be on point. The Spartan Award is truly an ensemble award," Cadena said. "The Spartan Award is an overall newspaper award determined by the coverage, writing and editing, photography and graphics, editorial content and design of three consecutive issues. The Roar needed 900 of a possible 1,000 points to earn the Spartan Award, and the Novi students earned 930. "There is an expectation of greatness, of 'the best ever' and if you don't buy into it, get off the staff. They don't want dead weight. With such a small staff, there's no room for error. Everyone's expected to be published," Cadena said.

The 35 individual awards the young journalists earned were spread among 13 different stories, with many of the editors leading the way.

Editor in Chief Lillian Xiao earned five individual awards, including first place for alternate story form. Former Editor in Chief Christy Duan earned six awards, including first place for personality profile. Xiao and Duan also worked together to edit the entertainment and feature section. News and Design Editor Ali

Good earned six awards, including first place for news page design and sports news story. "She just rocked. She won awards in all three (respect categories) and so did Christy. We talk about people being a triple threat in theater with song, dance and acting, those two are a triple threat in journalism," Cadena said of Good and Duan's awards for writing, photography and design.

Matt Evans was one of two students, along with Good, to earn two first place awards -- for best sports column and portrait. He also took a third-place win for best sports column.

"We put forth a lot of effort, a lot of late nights, here 'til 9 or 10. When you hear our names called, 35 times, it makes it all worth it," Evans said.

Cadena said the newspaper really is a student-run publication. The students determine stories as a group before writing and photographing on their own. The section editors, who proofread their peers' stories and write their own, then design the pages.

"I think it's that the students are well-rounded here in journalism. We don't have a staff photographer or staff designers, we have journalists," Cadena said.

Individual newspaper MIPA award winners
First place (9)
Matt Evans (2), Ali Good (2), Christy Duan, Scot Kelber, Dana Sanlure, Lillian Xiao, Ryan Ridenour/Vihli Bamzal

Second place (6)
Ali Good, Andrew Haggerty, Ryan Ridenour, Dana Sanlure, Lillian Xiao, Ali Good/Ryan Ridenour

Third place (6)
Christy Duan, Matt Evans, Ali Good, Lillian Xiao, Matt Varady/Ben Foerg, Christy Duan/Lillian Xiao

Honorable mention (14)
Christy Duan (3), Mike Symanski (3), Samantha Bourque (2), Ali Good (2), Ben Foerg, Ryan Ridenour, Matt Varady, Lillian Xiao

School-wide talent

The newspaper wasn't the only journalism program to earn awards last month. "Reflections," also gained some recognition, earning second place awards for Kelly Hogan and Steffi Min for their sports spread, and Joe Xu for academic photo. Melanie Morrison, Kristyn Crofoot, Min, Emily Stark and Morrison also earned honorable mentions at the MIPA conference.

The Cat's Eye, the high school's radio and television program, earned first place at the MIPA conference while individuals also earned high awards.

Sara Snyder earned second place for her "Life, Love, Home" short feature program. She also took home first place for best studio talent in the state. Sandee Voelker won first place for her open production and third place for the talk show opener for "Outside the Bubble." Heather Donohue won third place for best news anchor and Christopher Gray won second place in news feature.

"Aside from their shirts being different colors, you wouldn't know who was with who based on the cheering," said Lydia Cadena, newspaper and yearbook advisor, about the three programs' intermingled seating at the MIPA conference. "It didn't matter which team they were from, they were all Wildcats there."

The Cat's Eye also earned first place from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters Foundation while Snyder took home first place for her feature program and the staff was recognized for their community activities.

The Michigan Association of Educational Broadcasters also handed out awards recently to Mike Marsoupien, Matt Schaffer, Collin Hinman, Rob Low, Melissa Clay and Andrea Prince.

Summer Child Care 2008; important dates for students

Looking for a positive, enriching, educational summer full of adventure and fun? Join Novi Schools' summer C.A.R.E. (Children's Activities in a Responsible Environment) program for preschool to middle school aged children.

Activities are age appropriate for the development of the students. Activities will include field trips, crafts, science experiments, sports, games and more. Lunch and snacks are included in the daily fee.

Summer C.A.R.E. starts June 18 and ends August 20. Hours of operation are 7 a.m.-6 p.m. The location of C.A.R.E. will be at the Instructional Technology Center on Taft Road.

Register at Child Care Services located in the Community Education Office in the ITC. Registration packets, with fees and scheduling information, can be found on the Web at www.novi.k12.mi.us.

All students need to be registered and scheduled by May 15 for the month of June.

Class NOTES

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Celebrating the Arts
The Novi High School dance ensemble practices a piece that they will perform during next week's Festival of the Arts at the school. The festival, featuring music, dance and drama, will run 7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday.

children entering first through sixth grades, the program is scheduled for June 23-27 at Novi Middle School.

Throughout each day, children will participate in hands-on, interactive activities that encourage creativity and inventive solutions. Seth Furlow, science teacher at Novi Middle School, will direct a staff of local instructors and counselors. The \$220 registration fee, due on or before May 31, includes daily snacks and a T-shirt. A discount of \$20 per child is offered with the bring-a-friend program. There is also an additional \$5 discount for online registrants. Employees of Novi Community Schools can also receive a discount. Registrations received after May 31 require a \$20 late processing fee. Each program is limited to 110 children so sign up today.

For more information, or to register, visit www.campinvention.org or call (800) 968-4332.

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. Open to

children entering first through sixth grades, the program is scheduled for June 23-27 at Novi Middle School.

Throughout each day, children will participate in hands-on, interactive activities that encourage creativity and inventive solutions. Seth Furlow, science teacher at Novi Middle School, will direct a staff of local instructors and counselors. The \$220 registration fee, due on or before May 31, includes daily snacks and a T-shirt. A discount of \$20 per child is offered with the bring-a-friend program. There is also an additional \$5 discount for online registrants. Employees of Novi Community Schools can also receive a discount. Registrations received after May 31 require a \$20 late processing fee. Each program is limited to 110 children so sign up today.

For more information, or to register, visit www.campinvention.org or call (800) 968-4332.

Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest 36th Annual Garden Center Sale

The Garden Center is ready to take orders and announces special

children entering first through sixth grades, the program is scheduled for June 23-27 at Novi Middle School.

Throughout each day, children will participate in hands-on, interactive activities that encourage creativity and inventive solutions. Seth Furlow, science teacher at Novi Middle School, will direct a staff of local instructors and counselors. The \$220 registration fee, due on or before May 31, includes daily snacks and a T-shirt. A discount of \$20 per child is offered with the bring-a-friend program. There is also an additional \$5 discount for online registrants. Employees of Novi Community Schools can also receive a discount. Registrations received after May 31 require a \$20 late processing fee. Each program is limited to 110 children so sign up today.

For more information, or to register, visit www.campinvention.org or call (800) 968-4332.

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. Open to

children entering first through sixth grades, the program is scheduled for June 23-27 at Novi Middle School.

Throughout each day, children will participate in hands-on, interactive activities that encourage creativity and inventive solutions. Seth Furlow, science teacher at Novi Middle School, will direct a staff of local instructors and counselors. The \$220 registration fee, due on or before May 31, includes daily snacks and a T-shirt. A discount of \$20 per child is offered with the bring-a-friend program. There is also an additional \$5 discount for online registrants. Employees of Novi Community Schools can also receive a discount. Registrations received after May 31 require a \$20 late processing fee. Each program is limited to 110 children so sign up today.

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Oakland Schools Technical Campus Southwest 36th Annual Garden Center Sale

The Garden Center is ready to take orders and announces special

ON CAMPUS

The Culinary Institute of America
Trisha Santoro, a resident of

Novi and a 2006 graduate of Northville High School, earned her associate degree in culinary arts in March.

Michigan State University
Rachel Murray, daughter of Dennis and Mary Anne Murray of Novi, was inducted into the 2008-2009 class of Tower Guard a sophomore honor and service-based organization at MSU. Tower Guard, which was started in 1933, is the oldest active student organi-

zation at MSU. Students who are inducted into Tower Guard are selected from the top 5 percent of the freshman class. After this academic criterion is established, they are evaluated on their embodiment of the four pillars of Tower Guard: leadership, service, scholarship and character. As a member of Tower

Guard, Rachel will volunteer 120 hours of service next year to aid students with visual impairments through MSU's Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities.

U. S. Navy
Navy Seaman Apprentice

David P. Herberholz, a 2004 graduate of Catholic Central High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training and was meritoriously promoted to his current rank at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Former Mr. Universe talks fitness with elementary students

By Chris Jackett
STAFF WRITER



Peter Nielsen may have reigned as Mr. America and Mr. Universe in the past, but he was Mr. Orchard Hills last Friday morning as a school full of excited students gathered in the gym.

Nielsen, a Commerce resident originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., travels the country to speak about the importance of personal health and fitness. He was at Orchard Hills Elementary School May 9 to teach the staff and students what they could do to be healthier.

"We wanted to make sure our kids had good knowledge to take care of themselves. Being fit is so much more than what they learn in the classroom. They have to work at it like reading, writing or math," said organizer and physical education teacher Peggy Wickman. "I'm hoping they pick up how important it is to keep exercising. They need something besides organized sports to work on. When they're watching TV, they can do push-ups during commercials."

Nielsen makes about 25-30 appearances at schools throughout the country each year and was brought to Orchard Hills by fourth-grader Mitchell Mason. "My dad just called him up one day. My dad's done a lot of work for him. He's fired his cars, the 10-year-old, who also had to write an essay, 'I did a lot to get him to come. We're just thankful to have him.'"

The renowned fitness guru kicked off the assembly by telling the kids about the troubles he had growing up and how it got him where he is today. An 86-pound Nielsen was diagnosed with Crohn's disease at 15. He spent 70



Photos by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Peter Nielsen shows a group of Orchard Hills Elementary School students how they can do a simple abdominal exercise in their chairs during his recent visit to promote fitness.

days in the hospital and had a foot and a half of intestine removed. "They said I would never gain weight and my life would be shortened by this disease. I made that doctor eat his words," he told the students.

Nearly two million people have Crohn's disease, but Nielsen said survival is all about making a positive effort.

"The message is all about hope. Everyone will have some kind of health problem in their life and they've got to be prepared for it. I wouldn't wish a dog to live the childhood I lived," he said. "Nothing is impossible. Here's a kid that was near death twice. I traded profit for purpose 25 years ago. It starts with grass-rootsing with the kids. Elementary and grade school, they're like sponges."

To help the kids learn a better lifestyle, Nielsen used student volunteers to help him show the proper methods for a variety of bicep curls, sit-ups, push-ups and jumping rope.

"Always make sure you use

proper form and treat your body as a tool, not a weapon," Nielsen said. "Weights develop muscle. Never use more than 15 percent of your body weight (for bicep curls)."

Nielsen said the abdominal, butt and (triceps) (under-arm) muscles are the top three groups people want in shape; and all three, along with the cardiovascular activity for the heart, can be done at home without expensive equipment.

"You can burn 12 calories per minute and 720 calories per hour jumping rope. You can't buy that in an elliptical machine at the gym," he said, adding that it's good for both leg and heart muscles. "If you don't use it, you're going to lose it."

Wickman said she wants students to learn life-long lessons and activities they can do at home or with family members.

"You can educate parents and you can educate kids, but, if they're not on the same page, it never gets talked about at home," Wickman said.

Mason said students have been learning about a variety of health and fitness aspects in class prior to Nielsen's visit.

"About health and stuff and how to exercise the right way and not to hurt ourselves," he said. "At the end of the year we've been learning about body parts. They separate the boys and the girls for a couple reasons."

Nielsen and Wickman said a good diet is also important to being healthy. Nielsen said one 12-ounce can of soda pop per day for a year would result in a 16-

pound weight gain.

"Besides exercise, nutrition is so important. You exercise 'til you're blue in the face and it won't matter if you're not disciplined at the breakfast, lunch and dinner table. You are what you eat," Nielsen said. "Our kids are our tomorrow. If we don't enable them to have the right tools to succeed, shame on us."

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY
The first seven lines of an obituary are published free of charge. After that, there is a fee of \$3 a line. Pictures may be published for \$25.
*Deadline for obituaries is Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for publication in Thursday's newspaper.
For more information, call 888-999-1288, or contact your funeral home.
*Holiday deadlines are subject to change.

NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2008/09 BUDGET

Please take notice that on May 27, 2008 at 7:30 o'clock p.m. at American School, 847 N. Canler St., Northville, Michigan, the Board of Education of the Northville Public Schools will hold public hearings to consider the district's proposed 2008/09 budget. The Board may not adopt its proposed 2008/09 budget until after the public hearings. A copy of the proposed budget, including the proposed property tax millage, rate is available for public inspection during normal business hours after May 20, 2008, at the Business Office, 501 W. Main St., Northville, Michigan.

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

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

(5-15-08 NN 4118728) KAREN PACIOREK, SECRETARY

CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, the Historical Commission, the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission, the Planning Commission and the Public Access Promotion Commission.

If you are a registered voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City Board or Commission, applicants and booklets containing information about the various Boards and Commissions are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 West Tan Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. You may contact the City Clerk's office by calling (248) 347-0465 to receive an application by mail or fax or log onto the City Web Site at www.cityofnovi.org to print out an application.

The deadline for filing an application is Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. All applicants will be required to be present at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2008 in the Council Chambers to be interviewed by City Council. All City Council meetings are telecast.

(5-15-08 NN 4118723) MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK

Man Pedals Nine Hours For Charity Wearing White Pumps

BEXAR COUNTY - According to local officials, after using "Thera-Gelc" on his sore feet, Tom W. took only two breaks while pedaling nine small bikes for hours in white pumps... all for charity. When asked what charity, he patiently replied: "None of your dang business!"

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MAY 8TH, 2008 BID SPECIFICATIONS STUDENT/TEACHER WORKSTATIONS HOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Howell Public Schools is currently soliciting proposals for procurement of computers equipment and peripheral per the specifications as set forth in this document.

The deadline for sealed bids is May 28th, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at the following location:

Howell Public Schools District Operations
Attn: Paul Pomrinville
411 N. Highlander Way
Howell, MI 48843

Bid opening will take place at that time.

Howell Public Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to waive any defects, information or irregularities in any bid; and to make the award in any manner deemed in the best interest of the school district. Inquiries should be directed via e-mail to:

Mr. Paul Pomrinville
Paul@howell.k12schools.com
Director of Technology

(5-11/14/08) DAILY 8:5-15:22-08 NN 413277

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To help a friend, kids learn how to sign



By John Heider
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

It's a Wednesday lunchtime at American Elementary and kids are talking - without opening their mouths. They're communicating - but not by using a pen or sending an e-mail.

Nine kids cluster around a play mat in 10-year American kindergarten teacher Julie Colter's room, curling their fingers, tapping their forearms and waving their hands. They're learning American Sign Language.

The American Sign Language Club was begun by Colter more than a year ago in anticipation of her daughter, attending the Northville School, also attended by Novi students.

Colter's daughter, an outgoing, smiling first grader with inquisitive eyes, has apraxia of speech. Pointing to her mouth, Julie Colter explains apraxia. "It's just a neurological speech disorder - it just doesn't allow the brain to tell these muscles to move. What they call her 'articulators' - her tongue, her jaw and her lips.

"I started the sign language club knowing that she was coming - so that I could teach it to the other kids, and they wouldn't feel it was odd, and that she could start building friendships through sign and it's just been great. The kids here are aw-

some; they're so interested and involved and don't see it as unusual at all."

Colter keeps her sign language class fun and informative. As the kids nosh on their lunches, she quizzes them on objects, signing the words for "soop" and "cup."

The kids, sitting in a circle around Colter, stare at her fluttering hands. If they know the correct translation for the words signed, they scribble it down on a small chalkboard. Colter moves on to numbers and signs for "17" and "8" which the students stare at, ask for a repeat, and then write down their answers.

Toward the end of the half-hour class, Colter begins a sign language version of the "telephone" game. It's where a word or phrase is passed from person to person down a line.

Students stand in a single-file line and Colter begins the game by signing the phrase "I like bananas." For this, Colter points one hand to her chest, then with one hand brings the thumb and

forefinger together and moves them forward near the chest, and then finally signs for banana by raising a thumb from a fist and "peels" it with the other hand.

After passing from one student to the next, with a lot of giggling and quizzical looks, the youngster at the end of the line signs "I like apples."

Colter says that her daughter's apraxia is getting better and she's able to use speech more and more every day, but, for now, signing is still a valuable way for her to communicate with her peers and classmates.

"Last weekend she was at a birthday party, and she'll sign 'happy birthday' as they're singing it and then they'll sign it too," Colter said.

As her sign language students fit out of her a.m. kindergarten class, Colter talks about how important it is for Jane to have a full-time sign language interpreter in all her classes.

"She doesn't need to carry around a computer or sound box

or writing tablet," said Colter. "She can just move around the classroom and sign away, and the interpreter can just tell the others what she's saying."

One of the kids leaving Colter's room is Jane's friend Leah Purkiss. Jane and Leah sat side-by-side that day and signed the answers to Julie's questions together and smiled at each other when they got the answers right.

Colter thinks it's valuable for her daughter to have a buddy who can learn her new language and has seen a definite impact of the club outside its lunch hour meetings.

"Leah is her very best friend," said Colter. "What's really interesting is that producing sign is pretty hard for them - fine motor skill-wise, but Leah knows what Jane is saying. Her receptive skills are really good. And Jane will sign something like 'let's play on the monkey bars' and Leah will say 'OK' and off they go."

Catholic Central teenager supports research on Crohns

Fundraiser this Saturday

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Seventeen-year-old Neil Pichan wondered what was wrong with him about a year ago when he felt tired and started losing weight. "I didn't know what was going on," he said.

Finally diagnosed with Crohn's disease, a condition that affects the gastrointestinal tract, the Northville Township resident and junior at Catholic Central High School in Novi is now committed to increasing awareness about the ailment.

He's collecting money for the May 17 "Take Steps for Crohn's & Colitis Walk" at Camp Dearborn in Milford, Mich.

This is the second year he's raised money through his team, "Neil's People," and he's already collected \$1,575 for this year's event.

When this chronic digestive disorder periodically flares up, he will lose tremendous amounts of weight. At 5-feet, 9-inches, his weight dropped to 112 pounds at one point and he acquired sores in his mouth. He can't eat corn, pop-corn and sometimes lettuce, but he can still eat tacos. He also misses

lots of school and sees Dr. Jeremy Adler at the University of Michigan Medical Center.

Currently, however, he appears to be in remission from its symptoms and is back up to about 140 pounds. There's no cure for the disease, and he'll have to take medication to treat the disease the rest of his life.

Pichan doesn't hide the fact that he has this illness, as he believes it's important for other people to learn about it. He has become involved with the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter.

Because he knows how important it is to set a good example, he will also be in Leadership in Training for CCF's Camp Oasis this year.

He will serve as a volunteer at the camp, which will be held at Camp Copacetic in Fenton, so that he can be a role model for children to show them they can deal with their illnesses and still strive for success. He has been inspired by a famous football player, his physician and other sports figures who suffer from Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

When not in school, Pichan, who loves history, enjoys football and playing golf, and even works at the St. John's Golf and Conference Center in Plymouth Township.

Although he won't be able to participate in the walk at Camp Dearborn this year because his family has a prior commitment, Pichan has been encouraging people to donate to the cause.

Known collectively as inflammatory bowel diseases, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are chronic digestive disorders that affect as many as one million Americans. Crohn's disease most commonly affects the small intestine and colon.

However, it can affect any part of the digestive tract.

There are a variety of symptoms of gastrointestinal distress. The three classic (though not specific) symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease are persistent or recurrent diarrhea, abdominal pain and fever.

Crohn's and colitis patients report missing an average of 25 days per year from school or work due to their illness.

The typical Crohn's or colitis patient reports spending 38 days in the hospital per year.

Despite the fact that he is recovering from this serious illness, Pichan is a member of the National Honor Society.

"So, despite missing school, he really works hard, and his teachers are very committed to helping him so that he can keep his grades up," said his mother, Barbara.



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/Now News

Catholic Central High School student Neil Pichan has been helping to raise money for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America and its "Take Steps for Crohn's & Colitis Walk" on May 17. Pichan was diagnosed with Crohn's about a year ago, but is now in remission.

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10:00 a.m. **Protect and Grow Your Money in Retirement** presented by Rick Bloom
11:00 a.m. **Jazz Performance** from jazz vocalist Barbara Ware
11:00 a.m. **Line Dancing** lead by Bill Peterson
11:45 a.m. **Strength Training for Seniors** taught by American Health and Fitness

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Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management in Farmington Hills is a fee only financial advisor. His column *Money Matters* appears every Thursday and Sunday in The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. He can be heard Sundays on WTDK1400 radio. Rick is a licensed attorney and Certified Public Accountant and has been named one of the Top 250 Financial Planners by Worth Magazine.

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

MY YOUTH

Thursday, May 15, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi Woods goes to Lansing



Sally Chandler sits on the steps of the Capitol Building with her fourth-grade class. Submitted photos.



Nakhari Barkley, Allie Farris, Brenna Crawford, Dakota St. John, Nakul Vadlamudi and Mark VanWiemersch stand by a fur trader from the Michigan Historical Museum.



Grace Yang, Ashley Darling, Ivan McCall, Mariam Ahmad and Akshay Raman look on as Narayan Manivannan hits the gavel in State Rep. Craig DeRoche's office.

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MY FAITH & RELIGION

Thursday, May 15, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

FAITH

Meadowbrook Congregational

LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road
CONTACT: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757; visit www.mbcoc.org or e-mail to office@mbcoc.org

Sunday Worship
TIME: 10 a.m.
Pilgrim Fellowship
6 p.m. every Sunday for grades 5-12

Bible Study Group
TIME/DATE: 10:30-11:45 a.m. every Tuesday

DETAILS: Reverend Art Ritter will lead this group; please call the church office if you are interested in attending.

Road Rally
TIME/DATE: 5:30 p.m. Saturday

Prospective Member Meeting
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. Sunday

Road Rally
DATE: Saturday
TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. Thursday, May 22
LOCATION: Guernsey Farms

First Baptist Church of Novi-Family Integrated Church
LOCATION: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road

CONTACT: (248) 349-3647 or www.firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org

Sunday Schedule
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 a.m.
Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Family Movie Night: 5:30 p.m. fourth Sunday of every month.

Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross
LOCATION: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road

CONTACT: (248) 427-1175 or www.churchoftheholycross.com

Sunday Worship
TIME: 7:45, 10 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery Care
TIME: 10 a.m. Worship

Service
Alzheimer's Support Group
TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month

DETAILS: Offering support and open discussion for all those dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

Church of the Holy Family
LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road

CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit www.holyfamilynovi.org

Mass Schedule
TIME/DATE: 7:30, 8:45, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday; 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 5 p.m. Saturday

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CONTACT: Call Maria at (248)349-8847 or spiritwalk@01@aol.com

Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. last Wednesday of each month

DETAILS: This free informational meeting is open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.

Oak Pointe Church
LOCATION: 50200 W. 10 Mile Road

CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit www.oakpointe.org

Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:15 and 11:15 a.m.
ReNew Life Ministries
TIME/DATE: 7:15-9 p.m. Mondays

DETAILS: Ongoing Life Groups that support and facilitate personal growth, healing, learning and change from a Christian perspective. The groups are: GriefShare (for those grieving a loved one's death); DivorceCare (for those experiencing separation or divorce); Anger Management; Dealing with Struggling Teens (for parents); YourSpace (for high school students); Every

and meet the health guidelines. CONTACT: For more information, call Karen Welch at (248) 596-0789, (800) Marrow-2, or visit www.marrow.org.

Novi United Methodist
LOCATION: 41671 W. 10 Mile Road

CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit www.umcnovi.com

Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion
TIME/DATE: 9:45 a.m. first Sunday of every month

Peace Vigil
TIME/DATE: Noon, first Sunday of every month

DETAILS: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace; not anti-anything; pro peace. **Craft Show**

TIME/DATE: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 21
LOCATION: Memorial Hall, east side of church
DETAILS: Arts and crafts show; vendor space available indoors and out.
CONTACT: Pam Davis, edlee@yahoo.com

Crosspointe Meadows
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Elementary School, 29200 Meadowbrook Road (south of 13 Mile Road)

CONTACT: (248) 427-2700; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or visit www.crosspointemeadows.org

Sunday Worship
TIME: 9 and 10:30 a.m.
Chocolate Jazz Concert
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. Saturday

DETAILS: Enjoy smooth jazz featuring top artist David Wells and scrumptious desserts.
CONTACT: Lori Quick at (248) 669-9400.

The Baha' Faith
TIME/DATE: 11 a.m. last Saturday of every month
LOCATION: 23803 Ripple Creek St., Novi
DETAILS: This Devotional Gathering is focused on prayers for peace. People of all faiths welcome.
CONTACT: (248) 473-0355 or visit www.us.bahai.org

Faith Community Presbyterian
LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit www.faithcommunity-novi.org

Sunday Worship
TIME: 9:10 a.m. (Starting May 25, worship service time is 10 a.m.)
"Discovering The Bible" Kerygma class
TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. every Tuesday

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

MY OPINION

Thursday, May 15, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
fax: (248) 349-9832

Novi News

Victoria Mitchell
EDITOR
Susan Roelke
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Peter Nelli
VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER

Suspending gas tax is bad idea, no matter how you look at it

You want an example of political posturing at its most basic? Look no further than the ridiculous "gas tax holiday" idea being promoted by two of the remaining three major-party candidates for president: Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.).

A similar measure is being considered in Michigan's legislature, too. McCain and Clinton are both strongly supporting the idea of suspending the federal gas tax (18.4 cents a gallon) over the summer. With gas approaching \$4 a gallon, they apparently feel the voters will strongly embrace the idea. Of the presidential candidates, only Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) opposes the idea, correctly calling it a "political gimmick."

This "gas tax holiday" idea is bad policy and bad economics and, despite the fact that virtually every economist in the country opposes it, McCain and Clinton are steadfast in their support. Speaking to a group in Ohio last week, McCain said, "I'd like to see families in America have relief from ever-increasing costs of gasoline, so maybe at the end of the summer after this tax holiday they could buy school supplies for their children as they start the school year."

Clinton, meanwhile, was asked by ABC's George Stephanopoulos to name "a credible economist who supports the suspension," and she responded that she doesn't really care what economists think. "We've got to get out of this mindset where somehow elite opinion is always on the side of doing things that really disadvantage the vast majority of Americans," Clinton said. This suspension of the federal gas tax is a bad idea on so many levels, it's hard to know where to begin. But the arguments against it include these:

- The money raised by the federal gas tax helps fund badly-needed highway projects throughout the country. It's estimated that the tax holiday will cause \$8.5 billion in highway funds to be lost nationwide. Roads will get worse and many road workers will suffer — all so that people can save 18.4 cents a gallon this summer.
- Much of the money generated by the state gas tax funds Michigan's School Aid fund.
- Any solution to the gas crunch has to include saving gas by driving less, driving more efficiently and driving more fuel-efficient cars. Having the federal government step in with this gas tax holiday just gives people less incentive to embrace these measures.
- Gas tax holidays don't work. States have tried them in the past and, in every case, the reduction in the price of gas for drivers wasn't consistent with the amount of tax suspended. Instead, the average driver only saved about half of the amount of the tax suspension because retailers are not required to pass the savings onto their customers. If the tax goes down, 18 cents, there's nothing stopping a retailer from adding that 18 cents right back to the cost of the gas — and pocketing the additional money.
- With gas nearing \$4 a gallon, a savings of 18.4 cents isn't significant enough to outweigh all the problems a tax holiday would cause.
- McCain and Clinton are obviously pushing this idea to curry favor with voters who are weary of paying so much for gas. This pandering is incredibly transparent and, thankfully, it appears the voters are smart enough to see this gimmick for what it is.

Some pundits are arguing that it's no coincidence that Clinton's support of a gas tax holiday was followed by her less-than-spectacular showings in the Indiana and North Carolina primaries. Clearly, the voters weren't swayed by her support of this plan.

We're hoping that McCain and Clinton drop their vocal support of this idea. As they're discovering, the idea of a gas tax holiday is not just bad policy and bad economics — it's bad politics.

On May 7, the "Detroit Free Press" published an article about the new Detroit City Council approving water rates for the communities within the metropolitan Detroit area. When I scanned the listing, I was surprised and deeply troubled that the City of Novi now has received the second highest rate, Commerce Township was the highest.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Singing for a cause
Novi High students listen to the band Shirock at Novi High School last Tuesday morning in a concert for pupils involved in Students Against Destructive Decisions.

Kudos to city management

Recently, the press is showing the fiscal scorecards of so many cities in metropolitan areas which indicate fiscal distress, falling populations, shrinking tax bases and declining fund balances. We the citizens of Novi are fortunate that our city is in very good shape fiscally and commands respect. We have excellent city administration, the best school system and, next year, will have a state-of-the-art city library. I applaud the work by the mayor and councilmen and the administration under the leadership of the city manager.

Keep it up and make us all proud.

Ramesh Verma
Commissioner, USA State of Michigan

Exorbitant Water Rates

Furthermore, some of our neighbors, when compared with Novi's \$25.14/1000 cubic feet (after a 23.8 percent increase), enjoyed relatively small increases or reductions. For example, Wixom's \$13.85/1000 cubic feet (after a 12.9 percent reduction), Walled Lake's \$15.74/1000 cubic feet (after a 3.4 percent increase), Farmington Hill's \$17.63/1000 cubic feet (after a 9.6 percent increase) and Farmington's \$12.77/1000 cubic feet (after a 0.4 percent increase).

The almost 24-percent increase in water and sewer rates (so far) for Novi residents is very bad — especially for those on fixed incomes and those who have received no significant raises or salary reductions. But there are also other serious ramifications that will impact our tax base. Many small and large commercial and industrial operations use large quantities of water in their daily operation and the higher cost of water and sewer is an added expense. Consider, for example, if

a business or company moves to Wixom their water and sewer rates would only be about 56 percent of what they would pay in Novi.

This form of financial rape and ruin has to stop or the City of Novi will soon find itself priced outside of what the surrounding communities can offer to potential businesses and to retaining current business enterprises. I strongly suggest that the Novi City Council explore the following:

1. Take a strong, vocal and legal position against this type of water rate increases.
2. Consider a Plan B. Perhaps now is the time for Oakland County communities and Oakland County to consider its own water pipeline from Lake Huron (via a Bond Issue).
3. Consider a Plan C. Run water pipes to Farmington Hills, Livonia, Walled Lake and Wixom and purchase their water at 10 percent over what they pay for bulk water.

Joseph G. Tolt
Novi Resident

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: cstone@gannett.com
- Deadline: Letters must be received by noon on Tuesday to be published in the Thursday edition.



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While you are there, check out blogs and other thoughts by our entire staff.

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To the starting gates for the race to the real world



Chris Jackett

Growing up, you always hear about "the real world." Not the MTV show, but the life of a full-time job, several bills and eventually starting a family.

Although I may be a few years off from the latter, I've just finished soaking up my first full year of "the real world." I graduated from Michigan State University on May 3, 2007, just one day after I interviewed for this job.

Some could say I was fortunate to get a job so quickly, but it did take some work, as I applied at several newspapers since the March '07 spring break.

Not wanting to be forced out of, or to the other side of, the state, I was glad to get a job covering Novi, a community I've always enjoyed and had previously worked in for

three years at SoccerZone (now Total Soccer Novi).

As one of the youngest kids in my high school's class of 2003 and one of the first to graduate college, I've always figured myself to be ahead of the game. In four years, I earned two associates degrees at Schoolcraft College and a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University — a trifecta process that took about 150 credit hours, a lot

of work and a few student loans toward the end.

A year out of the starting gate, I'm happy with where I'm at. Two things I have learned though is that things aren't handed to you and procrastination is not an option.

I have several friends who graduated before me and are still without a full-time job. More often than not, it was because they didn't get the necessary experience while in college or they took too long to apply for an available position. Just two days can be the determining factor between whether a spot is filled or if your portfolio will earn you an introductory interview. There are dozens, if not hundreds or thousands, of people applying for the same job as you.

For the college students who just graduated or

returned home for summer, I hope you had your butt in gear. Otherwise, you may find yourself behind a rock and a hard place for a while.

Straight out of college, you will not land your dream job at a high pay rate. Work up to it through the smaller, local sectors of a large company or take a job at a small company and dominate there. Good, hard work will inevitably be recognized and you'll get where you want eventually.

Don't expect the world handed to you right off the bat.

For the high-school students graduating in a few weeks, be ready. The first year of college may seem like a review session of things you learned in high school, but it can just as quickly turn into a difficult and daunting task. The personal lessons with

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

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

COMMENTARY

Thursday, May 15, 2008
www.hometownlife.com
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PHIL POWER: Business tax latest evidence of Michigan's political incompetence

You might say the new Michigan Business Tax was born under a cloud and with an unnecessary "birth defect" that now has the state's business community up in arms. So how did we get here?



About Phil Power

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a recipient of the University of Michigan from 1987 to 1989. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@tcmnet.com.

First, a quick recap: Last year, faced with a billion-dollar deficit and threat of a state government shutdown, the legislature passed and Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed a new Michigan Business Tax.

The tax won widespread praise — at first. But weeks later, the deficit-fighting legislature tacked on an incompressible, inexplicable and unenforceable tax on a bizarre assortment of services — such as fortunetellers and baby-shoe bronzers.

The business community rose in wrath. What they most worried about was that once there was a tax on any services, there soon might be a tax on all services. So at the last minute, thanks to Chamber of Commerce pressure, the service tax was repealed.

To make up the lost revenue, a 20 percent surcharge was then hastily tacked on top of the Michigan Business Tax, which took effect Jan. 1, 2008. Now tax bills are finally going out, and there's lots of howling going on — much of it legitimate. Some businesses are bitterly complaining that tax bills are double or triple what they used to be under the old Single Business Tax.

How did this train wreck happen? A few days ago, I received a lengthy e-mail from a lawmaker (who wishes to remain anonymous) but who offers some valuable insights. Bottom line: "The service tax was the direct result of the brinkmanship of the GOP leadership in negotiations and (the) lack of GOP members (in) responding to the requests of their traditional supporters in the business community."

That's pretty stunning — and here's my attempt to put this all into context: Leading up to the critical votes, both the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the Detroit Chamber tried hard to persuade legislators to pass an income tax increase big enough to cover the entire deficit.

Why? Simple: To avoid additional business taxes. The House of Representatives figured it out. There, Democratic Speaker of the House Andy Dillon and other leaders tried repeatedly to pass a 4.7 percent income tax that would have resolved the budget crisis without resorting to the service tax.

But neither of the Republican leaders in the legislature — Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop nor House Minority Leader Craig DeRoche — was willing to step forward. They urged their members to hold back and let the Democrats take the political hit for a vote for more taxes. At one point, it looked as though there were as many as 10 Republican representa-

tives ready to vote for an adequate income tax hike, but DeRoche wouldn't budge.

That was too bad for all concerned. In the end, the attempt to construct only one difficult vote for legislators — an income tax increase sufficient to resolve the budget crisis — failed. Instead, it left lawmakers with three tough votes: One for a smaller increase in the income tax; one for a service tax (that was repealed before it took effect); and one for a 20 percent surcharge on the new business tax.

Since no lawmaker wants to cast difficult and risky votes, it's hard to see how forcing three tough votes was better than one. But that was the political "new math" calculus in Lansing at the time.

And it produced a bitter brew. My legislative source concludes, "The brinkmanship game of the leaders led to a much worse result for the state. ... Republicans need to know that the negotiation and political games led to higher taxes and more revenue to grow state government. Pretty high price."

High indeed. At the end of the day, everybody wound up worse off. Lawmakers, both Republicans and Democrats, had to make three tough tax votes when one would have sufficed.

Businesses are now struggling with a 20 percent surcharge on the new MBT. And the state still faces chronic structural budget deficits — deficits the present tax structure make virtually inevitable.

And the anti-tax fringe, namely the folks who are now trying to recall Dillon, got a new lease on life. Remember, they started out by going after any lawmakers who supported any tax increase, whether Republican or Democrat. Once they discovered there was limited support for recalls, they dropped all the other efforts and only went after Dillon.

The bottom line: Basing a policy for governing on political expediency turned out to be the worst possible outcome. Worst, not only for legislators who are now regarded as nincompoops by their constituents and the news media but also for the state as a whole.

This sorry tale illustrates all too well one of the worst aspects of our dysfunctional political system, namely, a wholesale preference by both parties for scoring political points instead of concentrating on rational, long-term government for the state.

If we're going to dig ourselves out of the jam we're in, this has got to stop. And we all need to find ways to express that — and to get the word to those we elect and pay to represent us.

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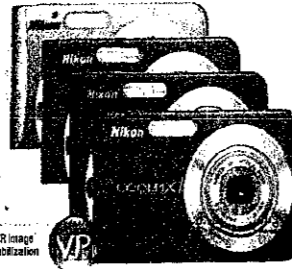
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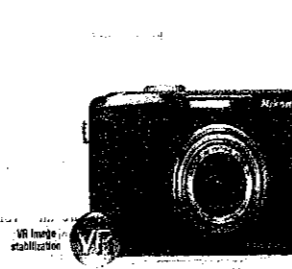
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GOT A STORY IDEA? Contact the Novi News to spread the word about what's going on in Novi.

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

Thursday, May 15, 2008
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PAWS TOTAL PET STUDIO

Novi graduate opens dream shop for animals, features local trainer

Owners are dog-gone friendly

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Northville has literally gone to the dogs...and the cats...with the opening of Paws Total Pet Studio in downtown Northville. The family-owned business at 102 E. Main St. at Center Street is run by newlyweds Bob and Lindsey Champine, and Bob's mother, Carol Ann Champine.

"We got into the business because we had such had experiences with other pet stores in the area," Lindsey said. "We were tired of seeing animals that we felt were being mistreated. Plus, it's hard to find the best treats, food, clothes, and other items for your pets these days."

Bob and Lindsey, who just married last October, love animals and have a British short-haired cat, Princess; an English bulldog, Mumbo; and a Pekingese puppy, Gizmo.

The two, who met through mutual friends, are Michigan natives and grew up in the area. Lindsey studied business administration at Eastern Michigan University and Bob graduated from Novi High School.

Before deciding to open a pet store, Lindsey was a corporate trainer for a cosmetic company and Bob worked in construc-

tion. "We're looking forward to getting to know the community and hopefully will become Northville homeowners some day," Lindsey said.

The Champines acquired the space from Alexandra Papisfakis and Nicole Jaskulka, former owners of Duo, a women's clothing store that closed recently.

"We literally walked in and talked to Nikki and Alex," Lindsey said. "They said that their space was for rent and that they would be happy to sub-lease it to us."

The 1,300-square-foot ground level space houses retail and a 280-square-foot basement is reserved for a pet day care service.

The Champines wanted a family-oriented, inviting store where the owners are knowledgeable and take a personal interest in the pets.

The store carries such premium brands as Sejos, an organic, completely natural line of foods and treats, and Royal Canin.

"We cater to animals with allergies and special dietary needs," Lindsey said. "Today's veterinarians suggest feeding pets a variety of different foods in order to treat and prevent many allergies."

She noted that she recently read online about a study that

showed, in America, people spend more on their pet's health than their own health.

Clothing from Downtown Doggie, handmade in Australia, and Ruff Ruff Couture of Beverly Hills is also available.

The store also features a dog walking service.

The Champines have attended many trade shows and visit local breeders to glean ideas about the latest pet products.

"We stay on the cutting edge of today's pet industry," Lindsey said.

The store has a special section for cats, as well as pet-themed greeting cards.

Trainer from Novi

Another special feature of the store is Jerry Mike of Novi, owner of Dog's Best Friend dog training and obedience, who is a dog consultant, trainer, handler and former breeder.

Mike offers an eight-week series that allows owners to overcome tough dog training issues. The series includes both indoor and outdoor sessions.

Reputable puppies

The Champines are quick to dispel rumors that their dogs come from puppy mills.

"We have a very thorough screening process involved with every animal we take aboard,"

Lindsey said.

"In fact, we like to say that we adopt out our puppies, because every puppy is mine and my husband's dog. All of our puppies are raised with the best of care, we are with them nearly 24 hours a day, and we visit all of the kennels where they come from."

Bob said he and Lindsey just watched the recent "Oprah" episode about puppy mills online.

"We were just shocked," he said. "In some states, puppies are treated like livestock. We understand that a lot of people associate all pet stores with these operations, but that's just not the case."

The store also doesn't focus only on obtaining expensive American Kennel Club breeds.

"We're looking at offering animals from rescue groups, too," Lindsey said.

People love their pets

The Champines understand that, even in a down economy, people don't mind spending money on their pets.

"They often receive more unconditional love from their pets than they do their own family members," Lindsey said. "With this being such a scary world, I think our pets offer comfort. It's a proven fact that owning a pet helps lower blood pressure and can alleviate depression, stress and anxiety."



Photo by PAM FLEMING/NoviRecor

The family-owned Paws Total Pet Studio opened at 102 E. Main St. in downtown Northville. Pictured with the store's trainer, Jerry Mike, front, holding a clumber spaniel, are owners, from left, Lindsey Champine, holding their Pekingese Gizmo; her husband, Bob Champine; and his mother, Carol Ann Champine. The Champines' English bulldog and store mascot, Mumbo, is pictured by Mike.

"This is definitely a very pet-friendly community," Bob said. "We see how many people interact with their dogs in the downtown area."

Shoppers are even encouraged to bring their pets into the store.

Optimists of Northville-Novu plan night at improv

Club seeks new members

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Karen Watkins knows trying to find people to join a civic organization is no laughing matter.

With people's schedules so full in our fast-paced, mobile society, it's hard to convince people to take time out of their busy lives to get involved in local groups, no matter how worthy their cause or causes might be.

Northville-Novu Optimist Club members have decided to try a little comedy to attract new members with Optimist Night at the Improv, a membership drive at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, at the Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., in downtown Northville. The event is one of two NOW

meetings the club has, which stands for Next Optimists Now.

"We'd like for people to come see what the Optimists are all about as well as the improv night at the Tipping Point," said Watkins, club president.

The event is free and will include wine with hors d'oeuvres from Edward's Cafe & Caterer in downtown Northville. The membership reception will begin at 7 p.m., with the comedy starting at 8 p.m.

"Normally, improv night at the Tipping Point costs \$8 per person," said Anne Jordan, Optimist Club board member. "But, we're picking up the cost of the comedy for our guests at this special event with the hope that they will join our group."

The club was formed in 2004 and through its various fund-raising efforts has supported the Arbor Hospice for Children, Cooke School and Old Village School, the Northville Civic Concern

Back Pack Program, annual scholarships and other programs.

Optimist International is a volunteer organization that promotes the development of youth, an active interest in good government and civic affairs, and international accord and friendship.

Last September, the club honored Chuck Gaidica of Northville, WDIV-TV (Channel 4) meteorologist, and Joan Wadsworth, president of the Northville Board of Education at its Charity Ball at the Sheraton Hotel in Novi. The two received the club's Exemplary Achievement Honor Roll Award.

The club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Bee's Knees ceramics shop at 141 E. Main St. in downtown Northville.

The first meeting of the month is the board meeting. "But everybody is invited to attend because we're so small," Watkins said. Guest speakers are often invited to the club's second monthly meeting.

The club plans three major fundraisers a year—a golf outing in the summer, which has been very successful; the Charity Ball in the fall; and a Christmas tree sale in the winter.

Even though it's small, the group has done well with its fundraisers, with about \$10,000 currently in its

treasury, which goes to its various charitable causes.

The club supports a reading program for third graders in Bob Kahlke's class at Silver Springs Elementary School in which students have to rise to the challenge of reading a certain number of books. By doing so, they earn the right to select books to give away to needy children.

The club currently has about 20 members.

"We're small, but mighty," Watkins said.

For more information about the May 20 membership drive event, contact Anne Jordan at (248) 924-3198. For general club information, call Jennifer Weiler at (313) 595-7833.

for a scholarship and awards two \$1,000 scholarships each year.

Watkins said Novi hasn't participated in the last couple of years, so both scholarships went to Northville High School students.

Students nominated to receive the scholarships have to overcome some sort of adversity.

The club currently has about 20 members.

For more information about the May 20 membership drive event, contact Anne Jordan at (248) 924-3198. For general club information, call Jennifer Weiler at (313) 595-7833.

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Wine by Joe Pinot Gris - Oregon \$16.99
Sweet aromas of fresh cut pears, green apples and hints of vanilla and cream, this Pinot Gris will not disappoint you. The light, clean flavors in the mouth encompass citrus and green apple, well-balanced by refreshing and lively acidity for a perfect and lively finish with lingering hints of citrus rind.

Wine by Joe Pinot Blanc - Oregon \$15.99
This wine keeps its mouth and opens up initially with aromas of stone fruit, vanilla, pears and a hint of smokiness. The medium bodied mouth feel delivers rich and rewarding flavors of cream, vanilla, spice and peach balanced by refreshingly crisp lime-finish acidity. If you haven't tried a great Oregon Pinot Blanc, now is the time to do it!

Wine by Joe Pinot Noir - Oregon \$21.99
This wine slips into your mouth with gorgeous, rich blackberry aromas with a touch of leather, too. The flavors mirror the aromas with a soft and velvety mouthful which wraps around your tongue delivering the impression of sweetness from the soft, ripe tannins.

Oak Knoll Pinot Noir - Oregon \$18.99
This wine exhibits a dark, garnet color and aromas of cherry, clove, and leather. On the palate, the wine is supple and round with integrated flavors of berry and cinnamon spice framed by subtle notes of vanilla and many oak. The wine possesses mouthwatering acidity with ripe red berry in the lingering finish.

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PAGE 2B

MY NOVI SPORTS

Houska wins Father Whelan Award

SPORTS, 3B

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SPORTS SPOTLIGHT: GIRLS TRACK

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

Track teams rally around Sekuloski

Senior deals with tragedy, keeps running

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Being part of a team is sometimes referred to as being part of a second family.

Never was this more evident than what happened after Lainy Sekuloski lost her mother after a long battle with cancer April 28.

Novi track coach Marsha Reid couldn't believe it when both the boys and girls showed up wearing pink in support of Sekuloski.

"To a degree, our team was trying to find some identity before everything started going on with her mom," Reid said. "I saw a team for the first day the day after her mom passed away. Every single person on my team had pink on."

"Breathtaking. It made me extremely proud of my team."

Growing up quick

Dealing with a terminally ill relative of any kind can be extremely difficult to deal with. Trying to deal with it as a senior in high school is a completely different set of issues.

Reid said being around the track team is something that can just let Sekuloski be a kid, if only for a little while.

"She is a person who's had to grow up quickly because of the circumstances," Reid said. "But because of that, she has a lot of leadership. She is a strong person both mentally and physically."

"She's very team and family oriented."

Sekuloski was a captain for cross country and is again for track. Even though she doesn't compete with the team at events because of other things that she's committed to, she still puts in the work at practice and helps make other runners better.

"She felt that it was part of her responsibility," Reid said. "She could've very easily not come out for track because of everything that was going on at home. The only reason that she didn't compete was because it took too long."

"She wanted the time to spend as much time with her family as possible."

But it's not like Sekuloski wouldn't be a point-scoring competitor. Reid compares her to two other distance runners, Elle Robinson and Lauren Sheeran, two runners that have scored all season for the Wildcats.

In fact, she is a good enough runner to get



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

See **RUNNING, 2B** Novi High School track team member Elaina Sekuloski.



Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

Novi's Jennifer Felcher serves against Northville.

Novi roundup: Tennis wins KVC title again

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

The Wildcats wrapped up the final KVC title by winning seven of nine flights at the KVC tournament on Saturday.

Brighton, which finished runner-up, won the No. 1 singles and doubles titles. Novi won everything else. The Wildcats and Bulldogs were first or second in every flight.

Capturing singles titles were Jackie Wang at No. 2, Sara Carlson at No. 3 and Jennifer Felcher at No. 4.

Doubles titles went to Amy Chiang and Lauren Felcher at No. 2, Teodora Gavric and Kellie Whalen at No. 3, Jenna Snyder and Julia Thomas at No. 4 and Andrea Lollo and Claudia Miculici at No. 5.

Saturday's win, combined with a 7-0 dual meet record, gives the Wildcats the final league title.

"It's kind of special," Novi head coach Jim Hanson said.

"I'm sad to see (the league) end. Our goals are to be the best team we can be, win the KVC, which we did, and then on to the regionals."

The Wildcats also won a trio of dual meets during the week, blanking South Lyon and Hartland 9-0 and edging out West Bloomfield 5-3.

Novi swept singles play against West Bloomfield and got a win from No. 1 doubles for the victory.

Novi hosts the regional tournament Friday with play beginning at 8 a.m. Eleven teams will play at the high school and the middle school (principle site).

The top two advance and any other team with 18 points also advances.

Lacrosse

The Novi lacrosse team (12-1) knocked off KVC foe Brighton 9-6 Thursday.

See **ROUNDUP, 2B**

CC roundup: Baseball beats Brother Rice, track wins big

■ Janer signs with UDM to play lacrosse

By Jeff Theisen
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central baseball (11-11) earned a split with Brother Rice last Thursday.

The Shamrocks lost the opener 7-2 before knocking off their rivals 4-3 in the nightcap.

Brother Rice broke open a 3-2 game with a bases-clearing double in the fourth inning of game

one.

In the second game, Jack Nelson went 6 2/3 innings, allowing four hits with four strikeouts to get the win. John Firek got the save, stranding the tying run on third.

Track

The Shamrocks edged Livonia Stevenson 175.5-173.5 to win the Stevenson Twilight Invitational on Friday.

Mike Martin led a 1-3-4 finish in the shot put with a throw of 55-10.25. He also led a 1-4-6 finish in the discus with a launch of 157-9.

The 3,200 relay team of Alex Toloff, Brandon Schneider, Spencer Hall and Zach Oleski placed first (8:17.2).

Other highlights included Brandon Curran winning the 200 meters (22.6); a second-place finish by the 800 relay team of Curran, Ronnie Kadykowski, Mel Farr and Jack Daykin; a 1-2-3 finish in the 1,600 meters, led by Scott Hoffman (4:41.4); a second-place finish by the 400 relay team of Curran, Farr, Jake Spullar and Daykin (45.2); a second-place finish by Harrison Hall



Submitted photo

See **SHAMROCKS, 3B** Catholic Central's Cory Amble in a recent baseball game.

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PHOTOS • SCORES • STANDINGS • SPORTS SCHEDULES • STORY CHAT

Roundup: Boys Track gets dual win

continued from front

The No. 6 ranked Wildcats trailed 4-3 at the half, but turned up the offense and applied a suffocating defense in the final two quarters, improving to 11-1.

Paul Fawcett racked up four goals and two assists to lead the offense. Matt Mandeville provided two goals and two helpers, and Craig Howell had a goal and an assist. Sean Murphy and Erik Aepelbacher scored the other goals.

Kyle Simone started in net, but led to leave after taking a big hit. Kody Tipton finished the game in goal for the Wildcats.

Novi also beat Ann Arbor Huron 13-9 Saturday, winning on senior day.

Senior Craig Howell started the scoring in the first quarter. Matt Mandeville got in the act, putting the Wildcats up 2-0, heading into the second.

Huron managed to tie the score before the Wildcats took control by rapping off the next four goals.

Nathan Haynes, Mandeville and Howell found the back of the net four times each on the night. Alex Weller had the other goal.

Kody Tipton got the win in goal.

Baseball
The Wildcats (16-8, 11-4) thrashed Pinckney 13-2 in five innings May 7.

Mike Place went the distance for the win, allowing four hits with three strikeouts.

Ric Geiger put the game away by knocking in a pair of runs in the third inning to provide enough cushion for the mercy.

Other top performers included Tyler Scott (2 hits, 2 RBI) and Dan Kilger (2 hits, 3 RBI).

Novi split a doubleheader with Howell, dropping the opener 8-2 and winning the night game 7-4.

In game one, Scott went the distance for the win, striking out 14 and allowing just four hits. Kilger (2 hits, 3 RBI) and Garret Green (2 hits, RBI) helped lead the offense.

Howell pulled away early in the second game, pushing across four runs in the first and never giving up the lead. Novi was limited to four hits.

Saturday, the Wildcats split with Detroit Country Day, winning the first game 13-3 and dropping the second 11-4.

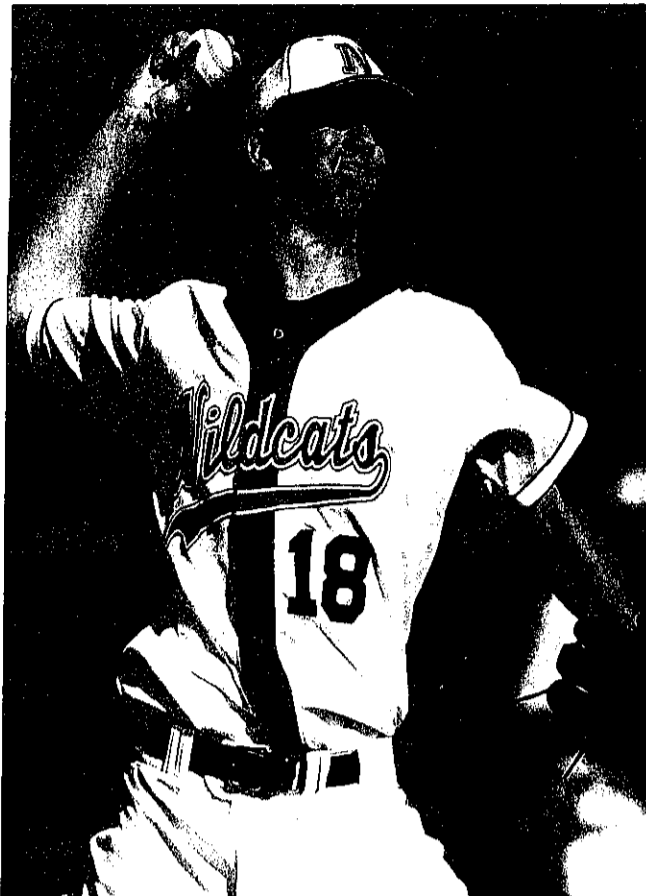
Against Brighton, Novi lost 100-57 on May 6.

Two days later, the Wildcats rebounded for a 94-43 win against the Lions.

At the Sunshine meet for freshmen and sophomores, the Wildcats finished in one point behind Brighton to place second.

Winning events were Kodyn Schar in the pole vault (10-2) and in the long jump (15-0) and Regina Barbosa in the 300 hurdles (49.2).

Second-place finishes went to Ashley Evans in the shot put



Tyler Scott brings the heat against Brighton.

Photo by JOHN HEIDER/Novi News

KVC Standings

Baseball	W	L	W	L
Lakeland	11	2	17	4
Brighton	10	2	17	5
Hartland	7	3	19	5
Novi	8	4	14	8
Howell	4	7	8	10
South Lyon	4	8	4	15
Pinckney	2	13	6	17
Milford	1	9	3	13

Softball	W	L	W	L
Howell	12	1	16	1
Lakeland	9	2	12	3
Milford	6	3	11	4
Pinckney	6	7	12	8
South Lyon	4	6	10	9
Novi	4	11	7	14
Brighton	3	9	5	15
Hartland	3	10	7	18

(28-375), Tia Furano in the 100 (13.1) and Marie Ross in the 800 (2:33.2).

Boys Track

The Wildcats won its first dual meet 72.5-63.5 last Thursday against South Lyon.

Highlights included a win from the 4x800 relay team of Josh Lumley, Dan Egner, TJ Butler and Aaron Croad (9:08.9), a sweep in both hurdle events with Mark Zheng, Sarvana Lakshmanan, Joe McNamara, Evan VanBuhler and Nikko Laudicina involved, Egner with a win in the 800 (2:03.9), a win from the 4x200 of Matt Thompson, Tyler Barnes, Matt Evans and Kevin Kerwan, Mike Blaszczyk with a win in the 1,600 meters (4:39) and Croad with a win in the 3,200 meters.

Novi came up just shy, 71-66, in a loss May 6 to Brighton.

Highlights included a sweep in the long jump, Tyler Mouth with a win in the shot put and the discus, a win by the 4x100 relay team, and Blaszczyk winning the 3,200 meters.

The freshmen and sophomores competed in the Sunshine Invite on Saturday, placing second.

Highlights came from Mark Zheng with a win in the 400 hurdles and Blaszczyk with a win in the 3,200 meters, Egner with a win in the 800 meters and a win from the 4x400 team of Brian Herron, Dane Foster, Zheng and Egner and Derek Kim with a second-place finish in the 110 hur-

dlers.

Golf

The Novi golfers beat Hartland 149-154 May 6. Tyler Manning shot a season-low 35 to lead the way. Alex Lyall (37), Brent Womack (38, another season-low) and Nick Prokop (39) were close behind.

JV Golf

The JV golfers were spread out May 6, competing in three matches. JV 1 lost to Hartland 160-176.

Steve Rajkowski was Novi's low score with a 41.

JV 2 played a tri-match with Milford and Hartland. The Wildcats won with a 164.

Tommy Goers was low with a 39.

JV 3 lost the tri-match, but was led by Kyle Edwards with a 41.

Running: Sekuloski sets an amazing example for everyone

continued from front

a full-ride scholarship to St. Francis.

Reid said Sekuloski is fighting with the idea of going away because she has been used to taking care of her younger brothers with her father, but Reid hopes she takes the opportunity to run at St. Francis.

"Her mom wanted her to go away to college, so she's trying to fulfill that, but at the same time she's trying to balance being the oldest," Reid said. "She is definitely a kid that can run at the collegiate level and help contribute to the team."

"She is a huge competitor. She doesn't like to lose."

Tribute

Sekuloski has been motivated by her mother's death to try and raise \$10,000 for the Relay for Life program. She also is the student body representative for the Relay for Life.

Kids from the track program have been bringing in donations as well as filling a donation jar passed around at meets.

"That's a big goal for her, to find a cure for this awful disease," Reid said.

Sekuloski has also memorialized her room with a tattoo on her back that says mother with a heart and her birthday and day of passing.

"Her mom was an unbelievably strong-willed woman," Reid said. "Lainy loves her family more than anything. I have never seen a bond like she had with her mom."

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

An example for everyone

Time is precious for teenagers. Homework, after-school programs and trying to keep anything of a social life can be very challenging.

But comparing that with dealing with what Sekuloski has dealt with makes all the complaining seem selfish.

Novi struggled with losing several senior girls that could've contributed to the team because they used their after-school time to get jobs or focus on other things.

But Reid was blown away that Sekuloski, with all that was going on away from the track, still came out for the team, even though she doesn't go to the meets.

"We only had six seniors return this year," Reid said. "A lot of it was just because this is a high-achieving group and they had too many other things and they couldn't make the commitment. I can respect that."

Then you have Lainy who has all of these commitments as well, but on top of it has her mom being terminally ill and still comes out and is able to commit to the program and give whatever she can and never once complains about it. That's Lainy."

That's the kind of kid coaches dream of.

"I think she's the kind of kid that doesn't realize how much of an impact she's had on other people," Reid said. "She's just an amazing kid."

Shamrocks

continued from front

in the 400 meters (51.7); a second-place finish by Scott Sansovich in the 300 hurdles (41.3); a win by Oleski in the 800 (1:59.9); another 1-2-3 finish in the 3,200, led by JP Zebrowski (10:00.3); and a win by the 1,600 relay team of Schneider, Kadyowski, Oleski and Hall (3:35.2).

CC also dominated Divine Chik in a 111-17 victory May 6.

The Shamrocks won every event except the high jump, and swept the 110 hurdles, the 1,600 meters, the 800 meters and all the relays.

On Monday, the Shamrocks defeated DeLaSalle 87-41.

Wins came from Bill Riga in the long jump (19-10), Martin in the shot put (55-10) and in the discus (157-4), the 4x800 relay team (8:11), Sansovich in the 110 hurdles (15.4) and 300 hurdles (41.2), Daykin in the 100 meters (11.3), the 4x200 relay (1:33.0), Oleski in the 800 (2:03.8), Curran in the 200 (22.9), Ricardo Galindo in the 3,200 (9:56.6) and the 4x400 relay (3:34.4).



Catholic Central left-handed pitcher Jack Nelson delivers against Brother Rice.

Shamrocks

continued from front

Cam Innis brings the ball upfield.

led the Shamrocks with a 72. He was followed by Alex Kolpacke with a 71, Joe Fransted with a 75 and Steve LaRoque with a 77.

The other tournament took place at Fox Hills. Mike Panek led with a 78. Kolpacke was next with an 80, and Fransted, LaRoque and Smadzinski each carded an 81.

Golf

The Shamrocks placed fourth in a pair of tournaments.

On May 2, CC played at the Detroit Golf Club. JJ Smadzinski

Brad Janer signed with University of Detroit Mercy for his first ever lacrosse team.

UDM head coach Matt Holtz said, "Brad Janer is the consummate athlete. He is aggressive, strong and very physical."

Shamrock Alumni

Catholic Central baseball alumni gathered for the inaugural CC Baseball Alumni Appreciation Event at the CC vs DeLaSalle doubleheader. The event was held to thank baseball alumni who generously helped with a fund-raising effort to improve the baseball facilities at CC, specifically to build cubbies inside the dug out to hold the players' gear during the games.

The alumni were presented during the in-between game break. From left to right are: Doug Raymond (2007), Tommy Leedle (1977), Ed Hammacher (1961 and Coach from 1992-2000), Dan Swabon (1952), Jerry Dietz (1950), Jerry Schypinski (1950), Ed Trojnak (1950), Stan Wilkins (1942), John Salter (Coach 1980-2005), Frank Corej (Coach 1970-80) and Bob Naru (1949).



Submitted photo

Novi, CC Schedules

- Novi Baseball**
5/16 at Brighton (DH), 4 p.m.
5/21 at South Lyon, 4 p.m.
- Novi Softball**
5/17 Madonna Classic at (Canton Softball Complex), TBA
5/18 Madonna Classic at (Canton Softball Complex), TBA
5/21 at South Lyon, 4 p.m.
- Track**
5/16 Regional at Milford, TBA
5/20 at KVC, 4 p.m.
- Lacrosse**
5/15 vs. South Lyon, 6:30 p.m.
- Tennis**
5/16 Regionals (home), 8 a.m.
5/19 at Marian, 3:30 p.m.
- Golf**
5/13 at Howell, 3 p.m.
- Soccer**
5/16 vs. Milford, 7 p.m.
5/21 vs. AA Pioneer, 7 p.m.
5/22 at KVC crossover, 7 p.m.
- CC Baseball**
5/19 at Saline, 4 p.m.
CHSL Playoff week, dates/times, TBA
- Lacrosse**
5/16 at AA Huron, 7 p.m.
- Track**
5/16 Regional at Milford, 2 p.m.
5/20 CHSL Champ. at Ladywood, 2 p.m.
- Golf**
5/22 Districts at Bay Pt. GC, TBA



Submitted photo

Whelan Winner

Submitted by CC

Ryan Houska was captain of the football, basketball and baseball teams. He was president of the student council, salutatorian and a National Honor Society member. He also earned a 4.2 G.P.A. and will be attending Cornell University to play football.

All of these attributes contribute to Houska being named the Whelan winner.

The Father James Whelan Award is the highest honor that can be given to a student-athlete and is looked upon by his peers as a Christian gentleman.

Houska is a resident of Plymouth.

the beginning of the school's athletic teams. The award is voted on by all varsity letter winners of the current year. It is given to a senior who has excelled academically, is an outstanding athlete and is looked upon by his peers as a Christian gentleman.

Houska is a resident of Plymouth.

Sports Shorts

Top Honors

Caleb Dean, a 6-9 senior center, has been recognized by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan as one of the top class A players in the State. Dean was nominated by coach Cory Heisch other area coaches and then selected to the 20-member team which is comprised of class A players from across the state.

Dean helped lead the Wildcats to the final KVC championship by averaging 15.2 points a game and 12.5 rebounds.

Wildcat sophomore Caroline Johnson received honorable mention from the Basketball Coaches Association. She was voted the top player in the KVC and helped lead the Wildcats become co-champions of the league.

CC's Westside Football Camp

Detroit Catholic Central is hosting a players contact football camp for kids entering grades 5-9 June 16-19. The camp runs 9 a.m.-3 p.m. each day and costs \$185.

Call (248) 596-3829 for registration.

Novi Volleyball Camp

The Novi volleyball coaching staff is hosting a summer volleyball camp at the high school.

All Skills Camp

Grades third-sixth - 9-11:30 a.m. July 21-24
Grades seventh-ninth - 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. July 21-25
Setters Camp
Grades seventh-ninth - 9-10:30 a.m. June 23-25
Hitters Camp
Grades seventh-ninth - 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 23-25
Libero (Defensive) Camp
Grades seventh-ninth - 5-7 p.m. June 23-25

Those interested can register through Community Education.

Novi Wildcat Boys Basketball Camp
Novi boys basketball coach Cory Heisch is hosting a boys basketball camp June 16-20 at Novi Middle School for boys entering second-ninth grades in the fall. Grades second-fifth will go from 8:30 a.m.-noon and grades sixth-ninth will follow from 1-4:30 p.m.

The cost of the camp is \$140 and will include a week of instruction, an outdoor basketball and T-shirt. Awards and trophies will also be presented.

For more information or registration, call (248) 449-1206.

Novi Lady Wildcat Basketball Camp

Novi girls basketball head coach Bill Kelp is hosting a bas-

Novi, CC Schedules

at All Area 4 Start Basketball Camp with South Lyon head coach Daren Clayton. This camp is for the more experienced basketball player. Cost for all camps is \$165.

The boys camp runs July 7-11, and the girls will be July 14-18.

For the boys, grades fourth-sixth is 8:30 a.m.-noon, and grades seventh-ninth will be from 1-4:30 p.m. at South Lyon High School.

For the girls, grades fifth-sixth is 8:30 a.m.-noon and grades seventh-ninth will be 1-4:30 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church.

Go to www.allareabasketball-camp.com for more information.

Checks for all camps should be made payable to All Area 4 Start Basketball Camp and mailed to Pat Schluter at 24781 Nottingham, Novi, MI 48374.

For more information, call (248) 388-6514.

Shamrock Lacrosse Camp

CC lacrosse head coach Dave Wilson is hosting a lacrosse camp June 16-19 for grades sixth-eighth and June 23-26 for grades nine-12.

A boys and girls basketball camp for boys and girls from grades K-ninth will take place July 21-25. The fee is \$65.

A shooting camp for kids in second-fifth grades runs 12:30-2 p.m. and for grades sixth-ninth, the camp runs 2:15-3:45 p.m. A basics camp for grades K-one is 8:30-10 a.m. and grades second-third will run 10 a.m.-noon.

Schluter will also be hosting

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Photos by JOHN R. HALL

Maria Mizera, a physical therapist at Northville Physical Rehabilitation, helps Megan Jamieson during her routine physical therapy treatment.

Room to stretch

Rehabilitation space doubles for the health of it

By John R. Hall
SPECIAL WRITER

Northville Physical Rehabilitation, which is celebrating more than 23 years of growth in downtown Northville, is about to experience another growth spurt.

This summer they will double their office space at 215 East Main Street. The physical rehabilitation provider will be occupying the entire first floor (6,000 square feet) of the two-story medical office building, located across the street from Starbucks.

EXPANDED SERVICES

"We are excited about our continued growth in Northville," said Dennis Engerer, physical therapist. "The additional space will give us the opportunity to expand all of our services. We have needed additional treatment rooms, as well as a larger gym area, for some time."

"In addition to providing traditional physical rehab services, we have also offered a supervised fitness program for our discharged patients that may want to continue beyond their initial care."

A CLINICAL FITNESS CENTER

According to Engerer, there are lots of people in the community that have the need to improve their strength, endurance, or function, and would like to attend a facility where they can get a structured and supervised fitness program designed with their ability or disability in mind.

"We are not trying to replace the local gym or health club, they certainly have their place," added Engerer. "The place

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Northville

Phone
(248) 349-9339

Web site
www.northvillephysicalrehab.com

that we want to provide is a clinical fitness center for the person that would not go to a traditional health club because of their injury or illness, or they may simply be looking for a more personal and professional approach. This new space will enable us to add new equipment, additional staff, and new programs."

The current staff of 22 employees at Northville Physical Rehabilitation consists of physical and occupational therapists, physical therapy and occupational therapy assistants, personal trainers, and exercise physiologists.

REFERRAL-FREE VISITS

"People are traditionally referred to us by their personal physicians or surgeons, but they are also welcome to come in without referral or consultation," said Engerer. "We can recommend a treatment plan to their physician or help them set up a personal fitness program if they would like to join our fitness program."



Sandy Strong, physical therapy technician, monitors the exercise routine of patient Ronald Sekerchak.

"We have the staff, expertise, and experience to treat a broad scope of diagnosis from simple sports-related orthopedic sprains/strains and joint replacements to long-term neurological disorders, such as multiple sclerosis or traumatic brain injury."

Engerer noted that over the years, Northville Physical Rehabilitation has attempted to cultivate a strong working relationship with local hospitals, medical

centers, physician's offices, and fitness centers.

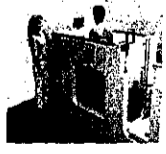
"We have always wanted to provide Northville with first class and convenient physical rehab services," he added. "We even provide transportation for our clients in Northville and communities that border Northville."

For more information, including hours of operation, call 248-349-9339 or visit www.northvillephysicalrehab.com.



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 FARMINGTON HILLS \$150,000 12 brm 2 bath 1500+ Condo in gated community w/ pool! Open flr plan, new maple flooring & granite. 2 story 2 level paint, end patio w/ marble flr & more! MLS# 28062627 734-453-8800	 GARDEN CITY \$155,990 Pond & tier deck, Lg backyard w/ pool. Updated oak kit & baths, vinyl windows, sleek entry drs. BA, wd blinds. Inv'd. Inv'd flrs in 2 BRs & LR. New opt upstairs. MLS# 28076551 248-347-3650	 HAMBURG \$700,000 Beautiful property on scenic 1700' frontage & access to chain of lks. Extensive reno, 4,600 sq ft on 2.7 acres. Energy eff & maint, fine gran, h/wd & remod BAs. MLS# 28029895 248-347-3650	 HURON \$175,000 New homeite opp in Huron Twp w/ Woodhaven Schools. Cross to hwy, shopping, parks. Can combine w/ adjacent 10 acres for a total of 15 buildable acres. MLS# 28065748 734-453-8800	 LAKE ORION \$334,900 Beautiful 4 bedroom colonial w/ two staircases, Great room w/ natural fireplace and hardwood floors. Updated kitchen w/ granite. Sunroom off kitchen. MLS# 30092058 313-888-4200	 LIVONIA \$300,000 Elegant home w/ h/wd dr on 1/2 acre landscaped lot 3 decks, FR w/ wet bar, fieldstone flr. Updates: furn, air kit & BAs, windows & dimensional roof. MLS# 28071922 248-347-3650
 LIVONIA \$189,900 A steal @ \$80 Soft. Livonia quad level w/ walk out lower level overlooks lovely ravine lot. Needs updating great architecture & layout. Some updates! MLS# 28063343 734-453-8800	 LYONS \$525,000 1.5 acres w/ pond! Inv'd flrs. 2 Fls, 1st flr main w/ kitchen, oak, c/c, country porch. Maint Free Est. 2 story GR w/ walkstone tp & bridge, unfn W/O. MLS# 28074591 248-347-3650	 MILFORD \$375,000 Sprawling ranch on 2 acre! Remodeled kit, W/O bsmt w/ wet bar, new carpet, paver patio w/ fire pit, c/a, mott led deck, h/wd flrs, pond w/ fish, 3.5 BAs. MLS# 28068855 248-347-3650	 NORTHVILLE \$550,000 1.5 acre w/ updates to remod kit, w/ cherry cabinets, remod ester BA w/ walk in closet, newer windows, carpet, furn, gran tile, full fr, laundry & car gar. MLS# 28049147 248-347-3650	 NORTHVILLE \$475,000 On Top of a Hill Surrounded by Wooded Priv Backyard w/ Injuri Pool. New Insulation & Roof, Updated Kt, Walnut FR & Gran. Fin Bsmt w/ w/ Fr, BA & Exer Rm. MLS# 28035691 247-347-3050	 NORTHVILLE \$375,000 Spectacular Victorian w/ h/wd. Details & Updates! Remod Kit w/ 42" Cherry Cabs, Remodeled BAs, New Furn, CA, Capt Ur, Pain LR, Windows & 9' Cigs on FF. MLS# 28047642 248-347-3650
 NOVI \$275,000 Matchless! Memorable! Inv'ding 2 story beauty, formal living rm w/ crown molding, spacious kitchen, finished lower level w/ sauna, new roof, furnace & more! MLS# 28074625 248-347-3650	 NOVI \$175,000 Great starter w/ h/wd stone downy. Updated kit, h/wd flrs, LR & FR, fr bsmt w/ w/c, new window, updated BA & lights, new c/a, softener, hood, newer furn and more. MLS# 28070192 248-347-3650	 ROYAL OAK \$239,900 Charming brick & stone bungalow w/ w/ oak walking distance to downtown Royal Oak 3 BRs 3 BA. Frick. Flr rm, huge wood deck, 2 car, part fin bsmt. MLS# 28068650 734-453-8800	 SOUTHFIELD \$219,900 Foreclosed! But this one has it all! Great price, great condition, finished basement, 2-br deck, sprinklers, marble fireplace, full 3 bedrooms, CAJ! MLS# 28071614 734-453-8800	 WAYNE \$109,800 Updated 3 br 2 BA brick ranch w/ h/wd bsmt, gar. Updates: Kit w/ oak cabs, tear-off rd windows, opt tv, landscaping, tub liner, h/wd in 2 BR w/ all apps stay. MLS# 28066649 248-347-3650	 WESTLAND \$134,900 Move in Ready, Fab 3 Br, 2 Full Ba. Spacious LR Open to Kit w/ h/wd Oak Cabs & Tile. Wow! Beautifully Fin Basement w/ h/wd BA, Det 2.5 Car Heated Gar. MLS# 28065654 734-453-8800

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Garage Sales (710) TROY INDOOR FLEA MARKET NEW Wed. \$10/table. Weekends \$15/table. Dealers wanted...

Building Materials (720) PIONEER POLE BLDGS. 30'x40'x10'. \$8990.00. 12'x10' All Metal Sider...

Sporting Goods (730) WALLEYE TACKLE Rods, reels, baits. Too much to list! Call 734-449-2788

Horses & Equipment (740) HORSES. Priced \$750-\$3500. Nights 248-348-1264

Off Road Vehicles (890) YAMAHA 2001 4 wheel. 80 cc. \$1300. Call 810-923-8334

Auto/Truck Parts & Service (860) BMW 530I 2004 4 door. Sedan - \$22,900. Mystic Blue Metallic...

Junk Cars Wanted (820) WE PAY TOP \$\$ for older running + junk vehicles, scrap metal, all sizes heavy equip.

Sports & Imported (830) CHEVROLET CORVETTE COUPE, 2005 Magnetic Red metallic, 8,500 miles...

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Westland Multi Family May 16-17, 9-4pm. Toys, tools, treasures and furniture. Gray Street, S of Joy Blvd

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ANTIQUE Toolkraft, table saws, routers, etc. \$25. H.D.C. 3/4 HP drill press...

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APACHE, 1969 PDP-UP \$500. 517-546-9625 after 5pm.

Auto Misc. (810) \$5 NEED CASH? \$5 We want your unwanted cars, equipment, trucks...

Auto Misc. (810) GMC FLATBED WRECKER 2007 - 2000 miles \$60,000/best 734-368-9269

Auto Misc. (810) CHEVY BELAIR 1954 All original, runs \$2400 810-577-7905

Auto Misc. (810) SABLE LX, 2004 -16,500 miles, keyless entry, leather interior...

ANN ARBOR MOVING SALE May 15, 16, 17, 10am-6pm. 1722 Bent Pine Court, Ann Arbor, 48106.

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BLOOMFIELD HILLS Sofas, tables, chairs, tools, and lots more! Fri. 10-4, Sat. 10-2pm.

HAY MIX No rail, large bales. 1st. \$5.00. 2nd. \$6.00. 517-223-8473

HORSE HAY, 100 cwt, dry square bales 1st cutting, \$4 per bale. (517)546-3468

ALL SCRAP METAL incl. appliances, junk cars, heavy equip. Top \$5 paid!! 517-305-4801

BOAT LIFT 4,000 lbs cap. 20ft. w/ranopy & elec. motor. Exc. cond. \$1,490. 810-623-6755

CRIS CRAFT 1990, 21 ft. catan. \$4500/best or trade for smaller boat. 248-207-5009

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FLAT BOTTOM PRAM 14' w/air trailer, 2 extra tires \$325/best. 248-497-9154

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MILFORD, 200 South Garner Rd., SW corner of GM & Garner Rd. May 16, 17, 18, 9 to 6pm.

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